BENGALURU, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 26 | Min 21 | Humidity 81% Scattered thunderstorms Sensex 84,211 | Nifty 25,795 | Gold 1,22,465 | Silver 1,46,309 | Dollar 87.77 | Euro 102.19 | GBP 117.17

WINGING IT

Greater public involvement, alert volunteering led to more rescues of urban wildlife impacted by fireworks this Deepavali

PAGE 3

BRIMMETH OVER

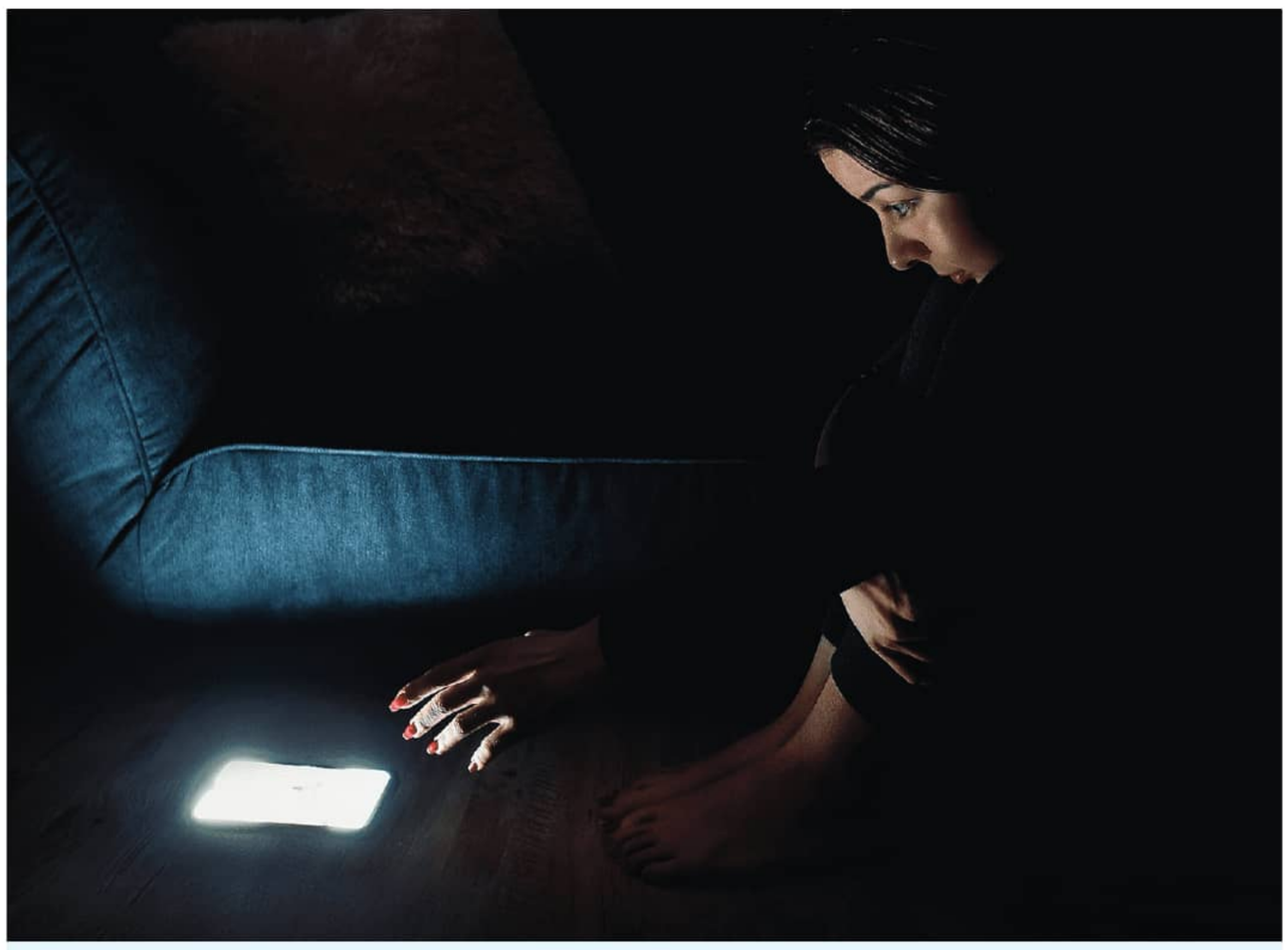
As KRS, Kabini, and Harangi dams remain full at end of Oct, officials hopeful Bengaluru won't face water shortage coming summer

PAGE 6

Experts question easy access to disturbing content on social media platforms and lack of regulation for AI chatbots as mental health conditions can spiral out of control in online rabbithole

DO NO HARM

Self-harm content online can prove lethal when mixed with loneliness, personal loss, warn experts



Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After the death of a 25-year-old delivery worker allegedly by suicide, it has come to light that he had been watching a series of self-harm videos on social media. According to his family, Rohit Patil had been struggling mentally after losing his mobile phone, his main source of connection, just days before the incident.

Rohit's brother, Aniket Patil told BM that the deceased had suffered severe head injuries three years ago in a road accident while working for a food delivery platform. "After that accident, his mental health was affected. He had recently moved to Avalahalli and was working under my sister's husband at a bakery," Aniket said.

"He started drinking heavily, would often complain about not sleeping, not eating properly, and working long hours. He once said someone was asking him to die by suicide in his dreams. I thought it was because of drinking, but later realised he had been watching suicide and self-harm videos on Facebook via phone."

In the days leading up to his death, Rohit had been searching for and viewing multiple videos related to suicide, according to his brother.

The tragic incident has reignited debate over the availability of harmful content online

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

> **"When someone loses access to their primary means of communication and begins consuming unfiltered material online, the lack of human connection and the anonymity of the internet can worsen distress**
>
> — Psychologist

Love's not a crime? Think again

As 50% of POCSO cases involve young men in consensual relationships with minors, experts demand more awareness on legal repercussions

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

A disturbing trend is unfolding across the state where young men are increasingly landing in jail under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act after falling in love with minor girls. Lack of legal awareness and ignorance about the girl's age are pushing many into serious trouble, with officials revealing that nearly 50 per cent of such cases involve young men caught in this legal web.

According to data from the RCH Portal, between January and August 2025, a total of 1,375 POCSO cases were registered in Karnataka. Shivamogga recorded the highest number of cases at 129, while Kodagu reported the lowest with 11 cases. Raichur reported 19 cases during the same period. Shockingly, 126 minor girls

FIGURE THIS OUT

TOTAL POCSO CASES (Jan–Aug 2025) **1,375**

Highest cases **Shivamogga** 129 cases

Lowest cases **Kodagu** 11 cases

Raichur 19 cases

Minor girls pregnant 126 cases

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Forgotten tales

The Auroville Theatre Group is presenting 'Call me Devika', a play about Devika Rani, who co-founded Bombay Talkies, one of India's earliest film studios. The play is the first in a longer series exploring the legacies of forgotten women who shaped history in invisible ways. **Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield; When: October 31, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm**

02 Full of wonder

Eklavya School invites children aged 2–10 and their families to the Eureka Eklavya Festival, a day of hands-on fun, creativity, and learning. **Where: Eklavya Early Years, Yelahanka; When: November 8, 10 am to 4 pm**

03 Craft collective

Rajasthan Grameen Mela, organised by artisans from across the country, is holding an exhibition-cum-sale featuring a vast range of cotton, silk, handloom, handicraft products and jewellery from all over India. **Where: Sri Hari Kalyana Mandapa, Banashankari; When: Until October 26, 10 am to 9 pm**

04 Soulful serenade

Adnan Sami will be taking the stage for an unforgettable performance, set to take the audience on a melodious journey. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: November 9, 7 pm**

05 Steps of legacy

Kuchipudi Parampara Foundation, Bengaluru, is presenting the 12th edition of Natya Parampara Utsav 2025. The programme includes recognition of a senior Kuchipudi guru along with various Kuchipudi performances. **Where: Seva Sadan Auditorium, Malleshwaram; When: October 31, 6 pm**

Citizens question 2011 census-based delimitation

Citizens say older census data does not reflect changes caused by city's rapid growth, challenge validity of delimitation process using outdated population projections

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Widespread objections have emerged over the state government's decision to divide wards in five municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru limits based on 2011 census data. Citizens argue that the population projections made for the 2023 municipal elections were ignored, leading to what they call an "unscientific" delimitation of wards. According to the 2011 census, the BBMP area had a population of 85 lakh, whereas projections for 2023 estimated it at around 1.44 crore. Yet, the ward distribution across Bengaluru East, West, Central, North, and South has been done using 2011 data, which citizens say does not reflect the city's explosive growth over the past 14 years.

Population spurt

Between 2011 and 2023, the population has surged significantly across all regions — East grew from 10 lakh to 13 lakh (30 per cent rise), West from 26 lakh to 45 lakh (73 per cent), Central from 15 lakh to 25 lakh (67 per cent), North from 18 lakh to 31 lakh (72 per cent), and South from 17 lakh to 30 lakh (76 per cent). Despite this sharp overall growth, the Ward Re-Delimitation Commission has finalised 368 wards based on outdated 2011 census figures.

Citizens raise objections

The state government issued a draft notification on September 30 announcing the formation of 368 wards within the five municipal bodies. Citizens were invited to submit objections and suggestions until October 15, and several residents have already filed formal complaints questioning the scientific validity of the process. However, officials stated that the final notification will be released after reviewing all objections.

Population density disparities

As per the estimated 2023 data, population density across Bengaluru's five municipal zones shows stark contrasts — Bengaluru West, with 27,950 people per ward, is nearly 3.6 times (260 per cent) higher than Bengaluru East's 7,738. Bengaluru South (20,408) and North (19,620) are each about 2.5 times (160–170 per cent) denser, while Bengaluru Central (12,051) stands at around 55 per cent higher than the East zone, underscoring the city's uneven population concentration.

Officials admitted that because of such wide variations, achieving uniform ward distribution was not possible.

Cross-boundary confusion

The state's guidelines required that each ward remain within its municipal boundary and under a single assembly constituency's jurisdiction. However, several constituencies now extend across multiple municipal corporations, complicating this mandate.

Bengaluru ward division sparks debate as many say older census does not account for population changes

Assembly constituencies with most wards

The projected 2023 data highlights stark disparities in population distribution and ward representation across Bengaluru's municipalities. Bengaluru East, with the highest population of 26.4 lakh, is divided into 27 wards—driven largely by the densely populated KR Puram (27 wards, the highest) and Mahadevapura (24 wards). In contrast, Anekal has only 1 ward, despite ongoing urban expansion. Bengaluru West houses 28.5 lakh people across 19 wards, while South (14.6 lakh, 13 wards), North (17.9 lakh, 20 wards), and Central (16.5 lakh, 12 wards) show uneven ratios of population to ward count. This imbalance points to disproportionate representation, where some wards cover far denser populations than others, undermining equitable governance across the city.

Hence, urban experts note that the absence of a new census since 2011 has resulted in skewed population representation. The city's per-ward population varies drastically — between 18,000 and 30,000 — leading to potential inequities in governance, fund allocation, and electoral representation. "Using 14-year-old census data for ward delimitation makes little sense in a city that has doubled in population," said a civic rights activist, adding that if Bengaluru is to be governed effectively, ward boundaries must reflect current realities.

BDA speeds up key arterial road linking West Bengaluru

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has expedited work on the 10.7 km-long Major Arterial Road (MAR), a vital project connecting Mysuru Road and Magadi Road to improve traffic flow and connectivity across West Bengaluru.

Once operational, the MAR will serve as a crucial transit corridor, enhancing accessibility between Mysuru Road and Magadi Road and linking fast-developing areas such as Sulikere, Ramasandra, Kenchapura, and Kannahalli. The new road will also integrate 56 internal routes within Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL) and run parallel to the NICE Road, creating an alternate high-capacity corridor for western suburbs. Following years of delay due to approvals and tender issues, the project has reached about

With 90% work done, BDA's ₹575 crore project connecting Mysuru and Magadi Roads via Kempegowda Layout will decongest traffic

90% completion. Although the initial deadline was November, a short delay is expected owing to pending clearance from the Railways Department. The girders for the rail underbridge near Challaghatta are ready, and the work will begin once permission is granted to close the tracks temporarily.

Launched in 2018 at an estimated cost of ₹575 crore, the 330-feet-wide MAR will feature six lanes, service roads, underpasses, 64 minor bridges, retaining walls, and a 250-metre tunnel near Challaghatta. The project also includes a rail underbridge between Kengeri and Hejjala stations to streamline vehicle movement and reduce congestion along the Mysuru corridor.

Connecting all nine blocks of NPKL, the MAR is expected to stimulate residential and commercial growth by improving access. While 80% of work is complete across most stretches, one kilometre remains pending due to land acquisition issues in Machohalli, Sulikere, Kannahalli, and Challaghatta. The remaining 180 metres near the Sulikere forest area are progressing after forest clearance.

Residents' forums have urged Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje to facilitate a ramp linking the MAR to the national highway to prevent bottlenecks near Challaghatta and Kumbalgodu. She has discussed the issue with NHAI and Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari. The BDA also plans to expand Kempegowda Layout by acquiring 9,000 acres across 17 villages beyond the NICE corridor. Once complete, the MAR will decongest Mysuru Road–Kengeri, provide faster Metro access, and attract new investments — transforming West Bengaluru into a seamlessly connected urban hub. **— BMB**

State clears ₹27,607 cr industrial investment

The Karnataka government has cleared industrial investment proposals worth Rs 27,607 crore from 13 companies, including 11 new projects and two expansion plans, at the State High-Level Clearance Committee meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at Vidhana Soudha. Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil said the approved projects are expected to create 8,704 direct jobs across Karnataka. Major investors include Tejas Networks, Vayu Assets, Jindal Steels, Jindal Electrical Steel, HSS Textiles, Schneider Electric, QPIAI India, Toyota Industries Engine India and Reliance Consumer Products. **— BMB**

Wildlife caught in line of fireworks

Rehabilitation centre for birds and reptiles records jump in rescue cases compared to last year; lead rehabilitator from organisation says increase is partly due to better public awareness

Iffath Fathima
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Sudden firecracker blasts often startle birds and small mammals, forcing them out of their nests and leaving many disoriented, injured, or stranded

Deepavali celebrations continue to pose risks to animals and urban wildlife, with loud firecrackers causing panic, injuries, and disorientation among birds, pets, and strays. Many birds are found hurt after crashing into buildings, while animals suffer burns or trauma due to the noise. Between October 19 and 23, 2025, the Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre (ARRC) recorded 141 rescue cases. During the same Deepavali period last year, from October 30 to November 3, the centre handled around 94 cases, marking a sharp rise in incidents this year.

Subiksha Venkatesh, Lead Rehabilitator, and Dr Ashritha Carlo, Senior Veterinarian, said that Deepavali is a particularly stressful time for urban wildlife. They said that sudden bursts of light and sound from firecrackers often cause panic among birds, bats, and small mammals, forcing them out of their nests or roosts. Many end up disoriented, injured, or stranded. They noted that common issues reported include collisions with buildings and windows, animals trapped in warehouses, grounded birds with maggot-infested wounds, and a rise in manjha-related injuries. "We have noticed an increase in such incidents, particularly among migratory birds like the Indian pitta. Around Deepavali, we also receive more cases of birds such as black kites and barn owls getting trapped inside buildings and warehouses, possibly disoriented by the loud and distressing fireworks," they said.

In one of the rescues, on Deepavali night, two dove chicks were found fallen from their nest. The person who reported the case tried to re-nest them, but nearby fireworks repeatedly startled the birds, causing them to fall again. One chick died from its injuries, while the other was taken to ARRC with signs of internal trauma.

"The increase is partly due to greater public awareness and more people reaching out for help — but also because our team took a proactive approach," said Venkatesh. Venkatesh highlighted that with many residents away during the festive week, rescuers proactively monitored hotspot areas to ensure distressed animals didn't go unnoticed. "This allowed us to identify and assist several distressed animals even before calls came in," said Venkatesh.

Additionally, Venkatesh pointed out that many animals suffer head or wing injuries after colliding with buildings or glass. Young birds and nestlings often arrive with internal bleeding or fractures from falls, while others show signs of shock, stress, or exhaustion.

"We also observed that most birds rescued during this period are more severely stressed than during other times of the year. Stress impedes healing and recovery — this is particularly evident in migratory birds like the Indian pitta," added Venkatesh.

The issue isn't limited to Deepavali—similar challenges are seen during other festivals. As awareness grows about how human activity affects other species, people can choose safer, more eco-friendly alternatives for celebrations.

To protect wildlife during Deepavali, the team took several proactive measures. Recognising that the festival compounds existing threats of injuries, they launched awareness drives through street plays in hotspots like Lalbagh and Cubbon Park, and created posters urging people to avoid bursting crackers near trees or green areas. Awareness sessions were also held to promote eco-conscious celebrations. At their facility, soundproofing measures were implemented to reduce stress on animals. Staff worked in shifts to ensure 24-hour care, delaying releases until conditions were safe post-festival.

Wildlife rehabilitator says rescue team's proactive approach also helped identify and assist several distressed animals, leading to rise in cases

36 school bus drivers booked for drunk driving

In a special drive conducted by the West Division Traffic Police on Friday morning, 36 school vehicle drivers were caught driving under the influence of alcohol within just two hours.

According to an official release, the special drive was carried out between 7 am and 9.30 am to identify school bus drivers operating under the influence. A total of 5,881 drivers were screened during the operation, of which 36 tested positive for alcohol consumption.

Police said the accused drivers have been prosecuted under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, and their driving licences have been sent to the respective RTOs for suspension. Notices are also being issued to the concerned school managements for employing drivers who were found driving in an inebriated state.

— BMB

Customs seize endangered primates at B'luru airport

The officials of the air intelligence unit at the Kempegowda International Airport have seized endangered primates smuggled into the country by a passenger who arrived from Bangkok on Thursday night.

According to an official release, the seizure was made from Rathina Rajan Rajaiha, who landed in Bengaluru at 8.35 pm on October 23.

During inspection, officials recovered one silver gibbon (Hylobates moloch) and two black-shanked doucs (Pygathrix nigripes), one of which was found dead. Both species are listed under CITES Appendix-I and Schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act, making their import strictly prohibited without valid permits.

The seizure was made under the Customs Act, and further investigation is underway. — BMB

Peace meet ahead of RSS march

The Karnataka High Court on Friday directed the State authorities to convene a peace-committee meeting with the organisers of the proposed Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) route march scheduled for October 28 at Chittapur town in Kalaburagi district.

Justice M G S Kamal passed the direction while hearing a petition filed by Ashok Patil, convenor of RSS Kalaburagi, seeking permission to conduct the Pathasanchalana (route march) in Chittapur on November 2.

During the hearing, the court took note of a report submitted by district authorities which indicated tension in the area owing to differing views expressed by several organisations over the proposed march. "It is stated that there exists some kind of tension in Chittapur town due to statements made in favour or against the route march. In view of this, the local authorities have decided to hold peace-committee meetings with the organisers," the judge observed.

Directing the State to hold the meeting on October 28, the court said the matter will be taken up again on October 30 to review the outcome. "Earlier resolution is better for everyone and for society," Justice Kamal remarked orally, while urging both sides to cooperate with the authorities.

Concluding the proceedings, the court directed that the peace-committee meeting be held on October 28 and that the matter be listed again on October 30. It also kept November 2 as a possible date for the route march, subject to the outcome of the meeting.

— BMB

IN HIGH COURT

Legal action over audio clip to continue

The Karnataka High Court has refused to quash criminal proceedings against a man accused of circulating audio clips on WhatsApp in 2020, allegedly containing inflammatory remarks against the government, a local MLA, and the State's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum, hearing the plea filed by Althaf Hussain Yane Althaf Moosa, dismissed the petition and held that there were sufficient grounds for the case to proceed to trial. The petitioner is facing charges under Sections 153A (promoting enmity between groups) and 505(2) (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Indian Penal Code.

According to the prosecution, the petitioner circulated audio messages on WhatsApp accusing the then local MLA of exploiting the pandemic for personal financial gain. The clips allegedly claimed that patients were being forcibly treated without proper checks and that Rs 40,000 was being collected for each such treatment. Authorities contended that these remarks created unnecessary panic and mistrust among the public.

The prosecution further alleged that the petitioner's statements were provocative and sought to give a communal colour to the issue at a time when the State was struggling to manage a public health emergency. It also informed the court that the petitioner was involved in multiple other criminal cases.

In defence, Hussain argued that the audio messages, even if taken at face value, did not constitute any offence under the law. He maintained that continuing the prosecution amounted to an abuse of the judicial process.

However, after examining the translated version of the audio clip and the forensic report confirming the petitioner's voice, the court concluded that there was prima facie material supporting the prosecution's case.

Dismissing the plea, the court added that the evidence, including the charge sheet and FSL report, warranted a full-fledged trial, and therefore, no indulgence could be granted at this stage. — BMB

Concrete road work delay leaves Panathur in chaos

Ongoing concrete work leaves Panathur residents frustrated, as delays in reopening stretch commutes from thirty minutes to nearly two hours

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

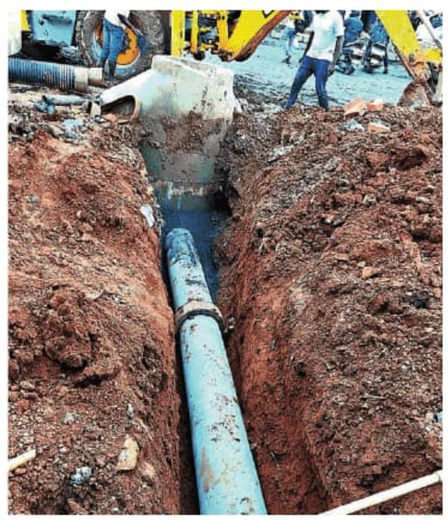
A stretch of Panathur Main Road, from the Railway Underpass until the Bhoganahalli Main Road junction, has been identified for concrete roadwork. The Bengaluru Traffic Police had issued a road closure notice for a period of 21 days starting from October 10. However, the work has not yet been completed, and there could be a further delay in reopening the road.

Meanwhile, daily commuters, though patient about the completion, stated that the diversions are adding to their travel time and taking a toll on them.

According to the Mahadevapura Task Force (MTF), on Thursday, levelling work had begun as part of the preparatory phase. The BWSSB has completed the UGD and Cauvery water pipelines. KPTCL has finished the cabling work to connect the Panathur Substation to the new substation coming up at Hagadur, as well as the substation at Sobha Dream Acres. BESCOM is in the final stages of shifting cables and electric poles. The BECC project team is currently excavating the earth and preparing the surface for concrete work. Depending on weather conditions, wet mix macadam (WMM) laying is expected to begin soon.

Pavithra Holla, a resident of Balegere, said, "This week was Diwali so it was manageable. Otherwise, it's very tedious. We have to take Sarjapur Road via Carmelram and it leads to ORR. The other route is Marathahalli via Varthur Jodi or T-junction to reach ORR. Earlier, from Panathur underpass, if I left at 7.30 am, I would reach in 30 minutes. Now it's taking two hours for me, and as most of the traffic is diverted and now since we are added, it's more congested."

Road closed for 21 days from October 10, but work remains incomplete and reopening may face further delay



According to the Mahadevapura Task Force (MTF), on Thursday, levelling work had begun as part of the preparatory phase. The BWSSB has completed the UGD and Cauvery water pipelines

Sudeep Bhargava, a resident of Panathur, said, "The traffic in Marathahalli for 5 km is taking 1 hour 30 minutes. Coming back, it's taking two and a half hours. It's becoming very problematic. Again, BTP has stated there could be more delay and this could be a really bad experience. Both these routes are heavily congested at other times. Now with all the traffic from Panathur landing there, we are all facing issues. Our legs are in pain, our backs are in pain while riding or driving. To go to Marathahalli, one route is via Vibgyor Road and the other is Vagdevi Road, but Vagdevi Road is in pathetic condition—it's fully a mud road. Vibgyor Road is filled with traffic. Every way is difficult for us. They should complete the work fast. Or ORRCA should ask companies to allow work from home during these days since we are facing a lot of issues. It is a daily pain."

MTF Member Secretary Clement Jayakumar said, "All the works below the road are completed. Levelling of the surface with wet mix macadam (WMM)—a stone and gravel mixture—is underway. After 3–4 days, concrete work will start. There will be two layers of concrete: one is base concrete and the other is PQC concrete, followed by a curing period of 14–28 days. Usually, 14 days is enough for the concrete to dry, and then it gradually strengthens to achieve full strength. In a week's time, we might allow two-wheelers and in 14–20 days, four-wheelers. The land acquisition work is still pending around five properties, but it's not affecting the road work."

From empty promises to action: BDA inspects layout

Spurred by residents' complaints and media spotlight, BDA teams begin inspecting Kempegowda Layout to address poor roads and stalled development

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

If the inspection at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) engineers on Thursday is any indication, it appears that the authorities are finally taking steps to ensure basic infrastructure is put in place at the layout at the earliest. Many site allottees have been reluctant to build their dream homes here due to the lack of essential amenities. Those who have constructed houses continue to face severe problems during rains, as most roads turn slushy and difficult to navigate.

Bangalore Mirror had published a story — BDA's empty promises deepen citizens' despair — on October 20, 2025, highlighting how residents of Kempegowda Layout still endure slushy roads, poor drainage, and missing infrastructure across long-delayed housing projects despite repeated inspections and assurances from officials. The report described how an autorickshaw driver, sent to pick up a patient from the area, struggled to pull his vehicle out of the mud.

Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, M Ashok, Secretary of the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout Open Forum, said he was satisfied with the BDA Commissioner's prompt response.

BDA engineers along with NPKL Open Forum members inspecting roads on Thursday at Kempe Gowda Layout

"The BDA Commissioner deputed engineers to inspect roads in the layout. I believe that land acquisition issues are still pending, but the engineers have assured us they will fix the problems as early as possible," he said. Madhu Sudhan V, a member of the NPKL Open Forum, noted that the land acquisition officer did not attend the inspection. "The engineers have assured us they will complete the pending works," he added.

A resident, requesting anonymity, said that many roads are yet to be asphalted. "It becomes extremely difficult to commute on mud roads whenever it rains. Most of the vacant sites are now overgrown with weeds," the resident said.

BDA Assistant Executive Engineer Parashuram explained that asphalting work was halted due to rains. "We will resume the work shortly, and all pending tasks will be completed by the end of November," he said.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Road relief
HRBR Layout

Following complaints, the previously damaged stretch near a showroom and hotel in HRBR Layout has been patched, restoring safer travel.

Road delay
Cottonpet

Cottonpet's road between Police Road and police station is still dug up for piping work, causing inconvenience.

Illegal parking
Kempegowda Road

Illegally parked cars on Kempegowda Road near a park are blocking the road, causing traffic congestion.

Investors eye Kanakapura Road for affordable plot opportunities

Middle-class buyers and professionals are drawn to green spaces, infrastructure upgrades, and thriving lifestyle hubs along the corridor

The Kanakapura Road stretch is witnessing a significant spike in real estate demand, especially for residential plots, driven by a combination of superior infrastructure, upcoming mega projects, and government focus as part of the Greater Bengaluru South development plan.

With the Karnataka government's inclusion of Kanakapura in its strategic urban expansion initiatives, the surrounding areas along Kanakapura Road are emerging as hotbeds of real estate activity.

Once a relatively quiet suburb, this corridor is now being transformed into a high-potential investment zone, drawing attention from buyers and developers alike.

Eco-friendly and connected, Kanakapura Road attracts homebuyers and investors alike

Middle-class appeal

Naveen Gowda, a realtor, said, "What makes Kanakapura Road particularly appealing is the availability of budget-friendly plots, especially suited to the aspirations of the middle-class segment. The area offers a blend of urban convenience and suburban calm, making it attractive to those looking to build homes or invest in land.

With expanding road networks, the region is fast becoming one of the best-connected zones in the city."

The proposed elevated corridors, including a major four-lane road via Anekal connecting Kanakapura and Ramanagara, are expected to significantly decongest traffic and enhance access to the city. This infrastructure boom is set to boost the potential of areas along the Kanakapura Road corridor, turning them into prime zones for residential and commercial development.

"The area has seen multiple mega infrastructure projects in recent years, including improved connectivity through BDA-developed zones such as JP Nagar Phase 4 and Phase 7, and the adjoining Kumaraswamy Layout.

This has laid the foundation for a wave of planned development, offering modern amenities and services," added Arathi Kumar, a realtor.

Kanakapura Road continues to retain its green charm, with semi-rural zones such as Harohalli, Bannerghatta Road, Konanakunte, and Baleguli drawing eco-conscious homebuyers. The presence of reputed educational institutions and religious landmarks adds to the appeal, creating a holistic residential environment.

BM Property
Every Saturday
Contact for advertisement
Mahesh Malagi
9886721857

IT hub

Despite being slightly away from the city's central business district, the area boasts strong metro connectivity, proximity to NICE Road, and seamless access to major IT hubs and malls. As a result, Kanakapura Road has become a preferred destination for IT professionals, corporate executives, and entrepreneurs.

Notably, the region has transformed into a cosmopolitan melting pot, attracting people from across India and even overseas. A variety of multi-cuisine restaurants, wellness centres, textile hubs, party halls, and beauty salons have mushroomed in the area, enhancing its lifestyle quotient and adding value to real estate investments.

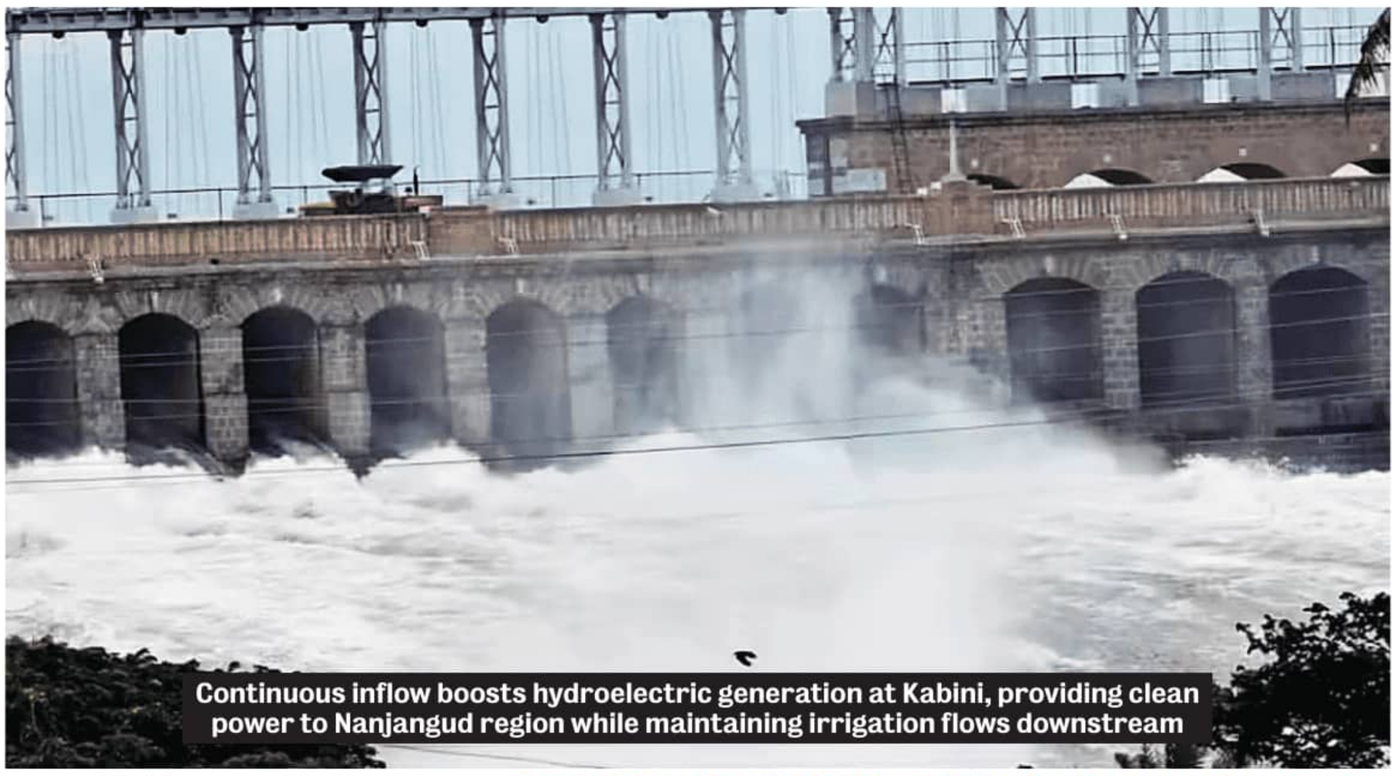
"With its strategic location, robust infrastructure, and eco-urban balance, Kanakapura Road is no longer just a realty corridor—it is fast evolving into one of Bengaluru's most promising investment destinations. Whether you are a homebuyer seeking a peaceful yet connected neighbourhood or an investor eyeing long-term value, Kanakapura Road is poised to deliver," Gowda added.

–PRAKASH VL

Cauvery basin brimming: Bengaluru set for second year without water shortage

With KRS, Kabini, and Harangi reservoirs at full capacity, officials assure stable water and power supply for summer 2026 water and power supply for summer

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror



Continuous inflow boosts hydroelectric generation at Kabini, providing clean power to Nanjangud region while maintaining irrigation flows downstream

Exceptional rainfall has filled all major Cauvery basin dams, ensuring Bengaluru and southern Karnataka escape summer scarcity

For the second consecutive year, Bengaluru and southern Karnataka are poised to avoid a drinking water crisis next summer, thanks to an exceptionally healthy inflow into the Cauvery basin reservoirs. Officials confirm that all major dams — Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS), Kabini, and Harangi — are filled to capacity, providing a rare respite for the city's water supply system. The KRS reservoir, the lifeline for Bengaluru, currently stands at its full reservoir level of 124.80 feet, with a massive inflow of 37,007 cusecs as of Friday morning. This comes as a welcome surprise, as it is unusual for the reservoir to be brimming even at the end of October. The water released from KRS is sufficient not only to meet the city's drinking water requirements but also to sustain irrigation in Mandya, Mysuru, and neighbouring regions downstream.

The Kabini reservoir in Beechanahalli village of HD Kote taluk has also reached full capacity for the fifth time this year, a remarkable feat in its 50-year history. It first filled up in May and again in June, July, and August. Now, with October rains, the reservoir has topped up once more, marking its fifth full-level event of the year. Kabini's storage has reached 19.52 TMC at a maximum level of 2,284 feet.

Over the past three days, inflows into Kabini have surged from 500 cusecs to 6,100 cusecs, prompting the release of 5,000 cusecs downstream for hydroelectric generation. Its private power unit currently produces 5 MW of electricity but can scale up to 20 MW when water flow remains steady at 5,000 cusecs. The generated power is supplied to the distribution centre at Kadakolu in Nanjangud taluk, ensuring reliable electricity to nearby areas.

Officials note that for the first time in 25 years, Kabini has stayed at full capacity for six consecutive months an outcome of consistent rainfall across its catchment. They expect the reservoir levels to remain stable for another two to three months, ensuring uninterrupted drinking water and power supply. In recognition of the team's effort, authorities have proposed a "Kabini Utsav" to honour the engineers, workers, and local contributors who built and maintain the dam.

Heavy rainfall in Kodagu has also filled the Harangi reservoir to capacity for the first time in October. To prevent overflow, officials opened four crest gates, releasing 3,000 cusecs of water downstream while maintaining sufficient storage. Meanwhile, KRS continues to discharge nearly 40,000 cusecs into the Cauvery to balance levels and support irrigation needs.

While the widespread rains have caused flooding, damaged homes, and disrupted railway operations in parts of Malnad, coastal, and interior Karnataka, the overall water situation remains overwhelmingly positive. For Bengaluru and the surrounding districts, the abundance in reservoirs means no anticipated shortage through the summer of 2026. Officials from the HD Kote Taluk administration and the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam have assured that the city's water supply will remain stable, with no signs of scarcity ahead. The consistent inflow and storage underscore the importance of sustained rainfall in the Cauvery catchment, helping Karnataka meet both urban and agricultural water demands effectively.

A senior BWSSB official summed it up: "With the reservoirs full, Bengaluru can look forward to another summer without water scarcity. Kabini and Harangi are reminders of how proper water management and timely rainfall safeguard Karnataka's water security."

ISRO, AST SpaceMobile ready BlueBird-6 launch

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch the 'BlueBird-6' satellite, developed with US-based AST SpaceMobile, in the first week of next month, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan announced. The communication satellite will lift off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. He said work on Chandrayaan-4 is progressing, with a 70–80-tonne rocket being designed for the lunar mission. The Centre has sanctioned ₹4,000 crore for India's third rocket launch facility at Sriharikota, to be built through private partnerships under the Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS) project.

Narayanan added that the Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission is 90% complete, with test flights beginning in December. Over 500 companies and 300 startups are engaged in India's space sector, which currently operates 56 satellites — expected to triple within four years. **— BMB**

CM warns officials over project delays

At a high-level investment promotion meeting at Vidhana Soudha, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah warned officials of strict action for delaying project approvals. He instructed the Chief Secretary to ensure all departments adhere to deadlines and accelerate the clearance process. To boost Karnataka's ease of doing business, the government will introduce legal and procedural reforms through Cabinet decisions. Siddaramaiah directed departments to shorten timelines for land-use conversion and NOCs while expediting clearances from the Pollution Control Board and Fire Department. He urged coordinated efforts to provide essential infrastructure—roads, water, and power—to industrial areas. Emphasising sustainability, he called for a roadmap promoting renewable and green energy for industries, reiterating that bureaucratic delays would no longer be tolerated as Karnataka pushes for faster, investor-friendly growth. **— BMB**

The struggle to just hang in there is real

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and the increasing tendency among youth to seek emotional comfort from artificial intelligence–based chatbots rather than trained human counsellors. Mental health professionals warn that a mix of loneliness, personal loss, and exposure to self-harm content can be lethal for vulnerable individuals. "When someone loses access to their primary means of communication, such as a mobile phone and begins consuming unfiltered material online, the lack of human connection and the anonymity of the internet can worsen distress," explained a city-based psychologist.

Experts note that the internet's accessibility makes it alarmingly easy for people already struggling with despair to spiral further. Many youngsters, they say, now turn to AI-powered chatbots for "conversation" or comfort instead of reaching out to counsellors or helplines, a shift that can delay or replace professional help.

Who's accountable?

The case raises urgent legal and ethical questions about the responsibility of platforms that host or recommend self-harm-related videos. Should AI chatbots that engage in emotional conversations be brought under regulation, and can India's existing laws address this growing crisis?

A senior police official told BM that members of the public can report suspicious or harmful online content, including sexual or self-harm-related material, through the National Cybercrime Reporting (NCRB) portal. "In many of these cases, the thought may already exist in a person's mind, but the trigger often comes from videos or online conversations that normalise or encourage such behaviour," the official said. The official added that with chatbots, even a simple twist of words can sometimes elicit responses on topics like suicide, despite safety restrictions. A response from such systems can often be manipulated through wordplay or repeated prompts, allowing users to bypass restrictions on sensitive topics.

This concern was highlighted in an international case where the makers of ChatGPT faced a lawsuit after 16-year-old Adam Raine reportedly died by suicide following months of conversations with the chatbot. According to court filings, the AI allegedly discussed suicide methods and even helped him draft a note to his parents. Following the incident, OpenAI admitted that safety filters could weaken during long exchanges, prompting the company to strengthen safeguards.

Legal grey area for AI chatbots

At present, India lacks a specific framework to regulate or remove self-harm-related content online. The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, and the Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code Rules, 2021, require platforms to take down unlawful or harmful material upon notification.

However, there is no explicit provision covering content that encourages or depicts suicide. Sections 67, 67A, and 67B of the IT Act penalise the transmission of obscene or sexually explicit material, but their application to self-harm content remains unclear.

Although major platforms like YouTube have developed automated detection tools and community flagging systems, experts note that the sheer volume of online content makes timely moderation nearly impossible. By the time a video is flagged and reviewed, significant harm may already have occurred. In practice, the rules are often enforced only when a video goes viral or draws government attention.

Advocate Timothy Charles, who practices in the Karnataka High Court, said the current legal framework does not fix liability on AI chatbots for harmful or misleading content. "Unfortunately, there are no laws at present to address situations where an AI bot gives self-harm instructions or other dangerous suggestions. The IT Act covers intermediary liability for platforms, but the accountability of AI chatbots has not yet been defined or tested by Indian courts," he told BM.

Experts believe the absence of specific laws regulating AI-generated advice, coupled with the easy availability of harmful online material, creates a dangerous gap, one that leaves vulnerable users, like Rohit, without adequate safeguards or reliable support systems.

(If you or someone you know is struggling with suicidal thoughts, reach out to Tele-Manas helpline: 14416 or 1800-891-4416, SAHAI Helpline: 080-25497777)

VIBE CHECK *Where we check in on what is rad in Bengaluru*

Roblox fever: Kids take over virtual worlds

From anime-inspired worlds to avatar makeovers, millions of Gen Z and Gen Alpha turn gaming into fun, socialising, and creative adventures

Iffath Fathima
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Digital games today are more than just a way to pass time; they have become spaces for creativity, connection, and learning. Among them, Roblox has emerged as a favorite for Gen Z and Gen Alpha, offering a wide variety of games across genres that can be played on mobile, PC, or console. Its mix of entertainment and social interaction has kept millions of young players engaged worldwide.

What makes Roblox stand out is its community driven approach. Players don't just log in to play, but they add friends, join communities, chat in real time, and even co-create entire virtual worlds. This blend of gaming and socializing has made Roblox not only a platform for play, but also a digital space for collaboration and friendship.

For Ishaan Ashraf Pasha, a first-year degree, Roblox has been a constant since 2020—and he says it never gets boring. "The best part about Roblox is that you really can't get tired of it, because there's such a huge variety of games. No matter what mood you're in, there's always something to play," he explained

"There are games based on anime shows, and one of the biggest is Blox Fruits, which is inspired by One Piece. Its daily player count goes anywhere between 300,000 and a million. You don't even need a good PC or good console , you can simply play on the mobile." He said.

One of the biggest attractions of Roblox for Gen Z and mostly now for the Gen Alpha players is the chance to design and customize their avatars. For many, the game isn't just about winning or completing challenges, it's about how their character looks and represents them in the virtual world. Avatars have become the digital identity of every player.

Eight-year-old Mohammad Haroon Ahmed says his favorite part of Roblox is creating avatars. "I love making my avatar, and I even spend Robux to buy accessories and design it the way I like. I have made 222 connections on Roblox." He said

Robux is the virtual currency used in Roblox, where players can earn or purchase Robux and spend inside the platform, it allows them to buy items like clothes, accessories, skins, gear, or even upgrades or boosts in different games.

It's not only Gen Z and Gen Alpha who enjoy these games, even Millennials are keeping pace and joining in the fun. He played various games like Minecraft-inspired worlds, Squid Game adaptations, and other team-based games. Coming from an Indian education background, it's rare to hear teachers recommend games, so I decided to explore the platform myself. Once I started playing with him, I got genuinely interested. Now, we regularly try out new games and interactive features together. I also try to encourage him to explore more creative and educational games that can help develop his learning and analytical skills." Said Akash Mehrotra, Communications Professional

For Haroon, some Roblox games stand out as his clear favourites. "My favourite games are Brookhaven, Steal a Brain Rot, Forfaken, and Grow a Garden. In Brookhaven we can live in a virtual town, own houses and drive cars and make friends. I like playing the game because I can explore everything around and even buy it like I have my own car and own house in the game which is fun."

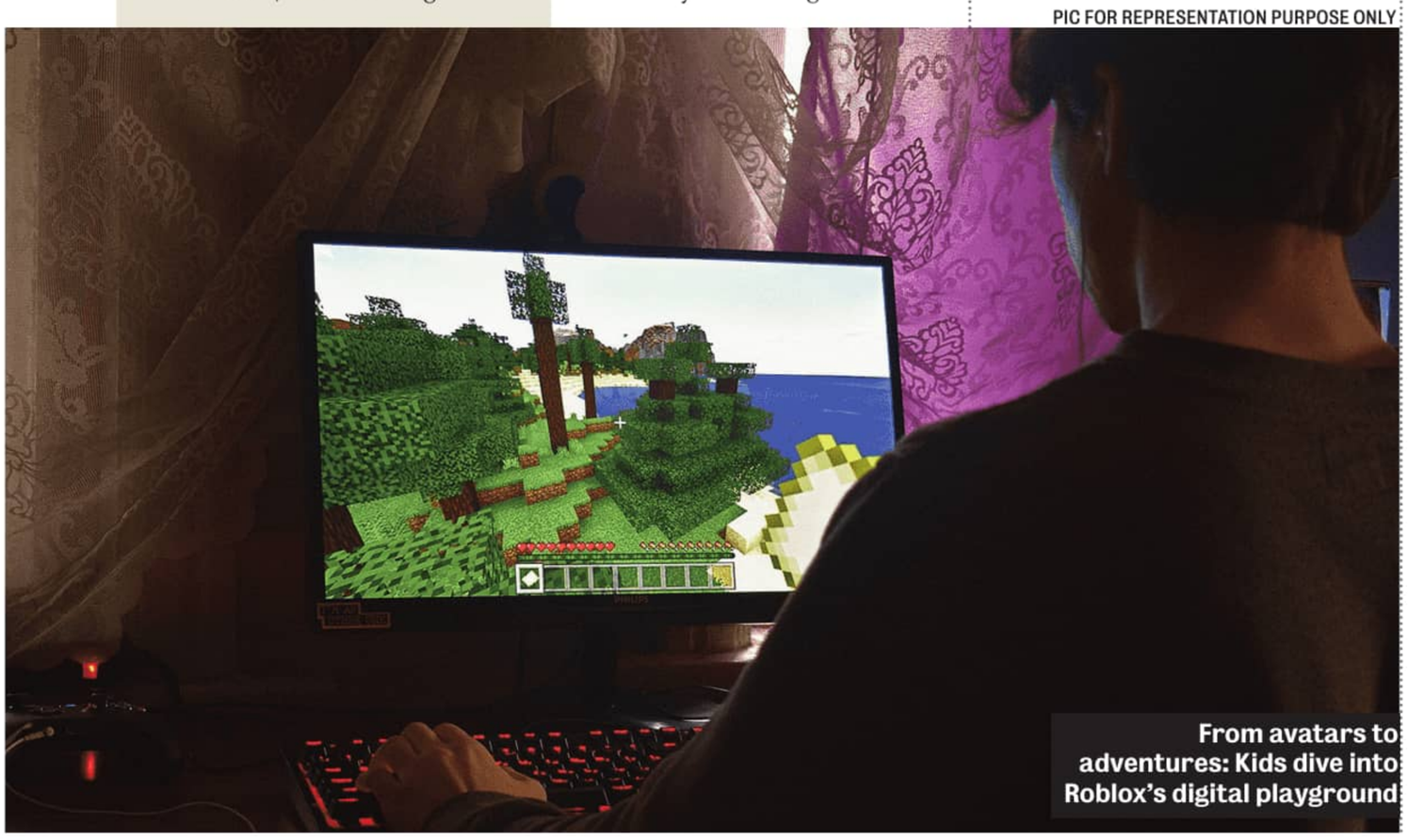
Abdul Haadi, a 10-year-old fifth grader, has a long list of favorite Roblox games, Grow a Garden, Hyper Shot, Ink Game, Rivals, and 99 Nights in the Forest. Out of these, Rivals is one he especially enjoys. "Rivals is basically a shooting game, and I like playing it. I couldn't watch the show, but playing Ink Game makes me feel like I'm part of it," he adds with a laugh.

For Haadi, Roblox is more than just a game—it's a way to stay connected with friends. "My school friends send me invites, and we all play together. Sometimes we even fix a time at school to log in at the same time and join the same game," he explains. Earlier, the group used to play Fortnite, but it required expensive devices like PlayStation or Nintendo. "Not everyone had those, so we couldn't all play together. Roblox is free, so now everyone can join in. That's why we shifted," Haadi adds.

Haroon's mother, Shabista Hashmi, says Roblox has boosted his creativity—he makes avatars, builds houses, and comes up with ideas using free tools. Socially, it connects their family across countries: his father in Saudi Arabia, Haroon in India, and Shabista in Doha. They bond by creating together and spending time in the game. However, she notes concerns: Roblox can be addictive, keeping him indoors, and online interactions with strangers require close monitoring and guidance on safety.

Virtual towns, team challenges, and global friendships make Roblox the ultimate playground where young players design, explore, and connect like never before

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY



From avatars to adventures: Kids dive into Roblox's digital playground

Tunnel plan slammed for faulty design and risky canal diversion

Experts raise alarm over the Hebbal–Silk Board project's flawed drainage, unrealistic water diversion, and potential threats to city lakes and ecosystems

The proposed 17-kilometre Hebbal–Silk Board Tunnel Road, estimated to cost ₹17,698 crore, has come under scrutiny for its flawed drainage design and unrealistic canal diversion plan. The expert committee appointed by the state government to review the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has found major shortcomings in the handling of the Hebbal Lake water canal.

According to the report, the DPR proposes diverting the canal flowing from the lower end of Hebbal Lake through a U-turn towards the airport as part of an alternative alignment. However, the committee described this diversion as "unrealistic". It noted that the DPR lacks hydraulic calculations, structural designs, and details of connecting drains. The committee emphasised the need for a clear and well-structured plan supported by scientific data.

"The proposed plan must be executed with extreme caution. Long diversion routes should be avoided, and detailed hydraulic calculations considering a 100-year flood cycle must be undertaken," the committee's findings stated.

A state-appointed committee has found major technical and environmental lapses in the ₹17,698 crore tunnel proposal, warning it could damage natural water channels, disturb aquatic life, and endanger Bengaluru's ecological balance

Impact on natural water flow and geology

Experts have warned that altering natural canals and drains could have serious geological and environmental effects. Diverting natural watercourses may affect groundwater recharge and soil biology. Environmentalists and civic activists insist that soil testing and environmental assessments must be conducted before implementing such changes.

"Diverting natural drains and canals not only violates environmental laws but also disrupts the balance of surrounding ecosystems," said an environmental researcher involved in the review.

An activist expressed concern over the lack of clarity and foresight in the project. "Any development project should be planned with the future in mind. The tunnel project lacks transparency. Officials say they will protect Lalbagh and other natural areas, but when asked how, they have no concrete answers. Not just Lalbagh — even the natural ecosystem around Hebbal Lake will be damaged. There has been no environmental impact assessment. This is an unclear and ill-conceived project that poses a risk to the city's ecological future," he said.

Unclear drainage and sewerage plan

The committee also found that the DPR does not contain clear or adequate designs for the sewerage and drainage systems. Variations in vertical alignment could impact water flow, leading to long-term operational issues. The report recommends preparing detailed hydraulic maps and design drawings to assess the adequacy of the proposed sewerage network.

The tunnel project is expected to affect not just Hebbal Lake, but also Sankey Tank, Nagawara Lake, and Lalbagh, along with their surrounding ecosystems. Experts warned that water overflow from Hebbal Lake naturally drains into Nagawara Lake, and any disturbance in this flow could cause lasting damage to both. The use of heavy machinery and deep excavation could also create vibrations that may disturb aquatic life in these water bodies.

"The entire Hebbal Valley ecosystem could face negative impacts if the current plan proceeds without revisions," the committee cautioned. —BMB

mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/bangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

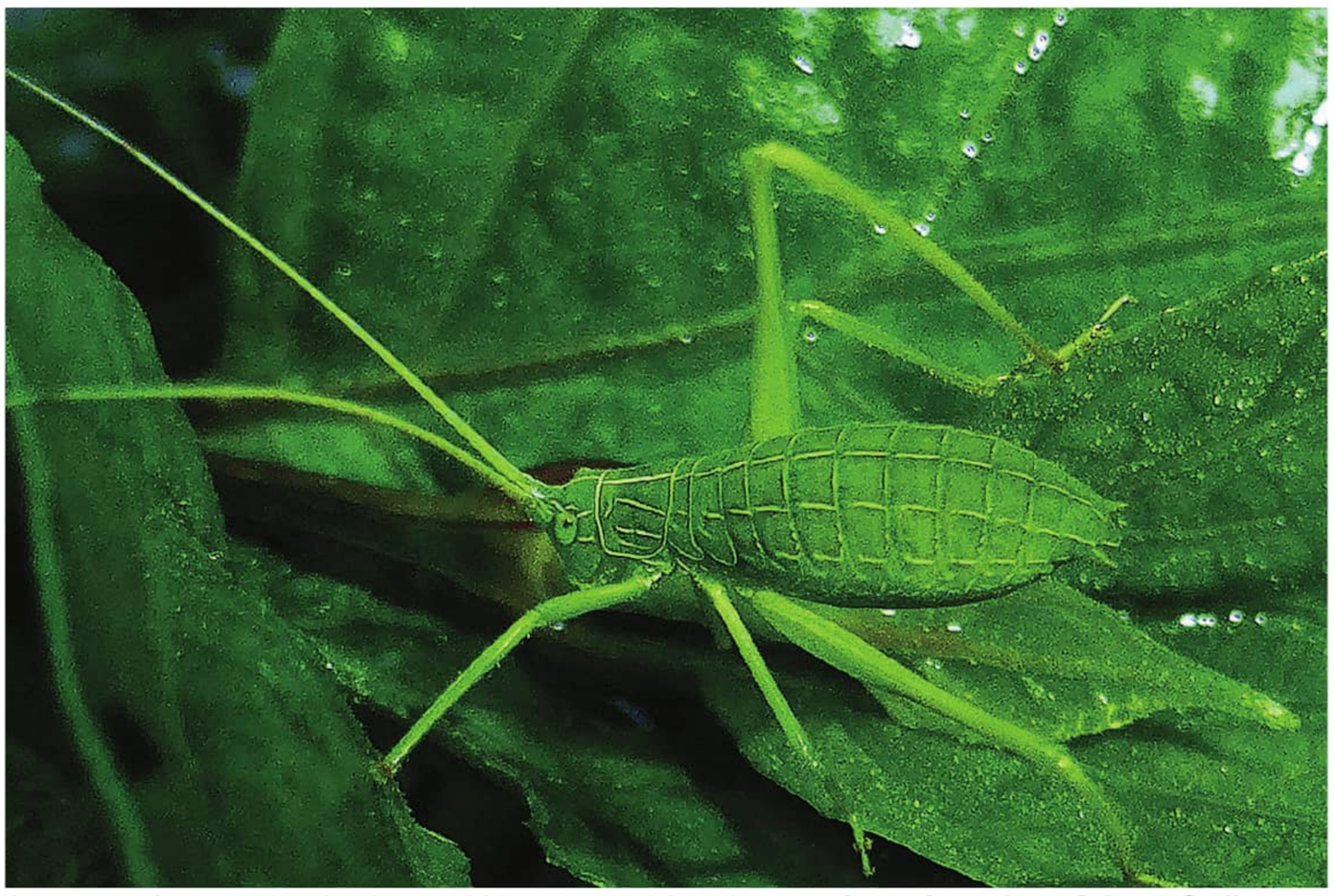
BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

SNUG AND SAFE

Our reader shares a fascinating glimpse of a perfectly camouflaged leaf insect blending seamlessly with green foliage. Its long, independent antennae three times its body length sense lurking predators from afar, ensuring survival through nature's quiet vigilance.



The picture was clicked by reader **T Prakash**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

White-topping chaos chokes Rajajinagar's arterial lifeline

Unplanned utility works, missing safety measures, and snail-paced progress on Dr Rajkumar Road have left commuters and shopkeepers fuming

The white-topping work on Dr Rajkumar Road, stretching from Navarang Circle to Orion Mall in Rajajinagar, has turned into a major civic ordeal for motorists and pedestrians alike. Nearly a month after the stretch was dug up, work has progressed at a snail's pace, leading to severe traffic congestion and commuter distress on one of Bengaluru's busiest arterial routes connecting vehicles from various districts to Majestic. White-topping is currently under progress on one side of the road, while the other side remains open for one-way traffic. However, two-wheelers and autorickshaws frequently violate the one-way restriction, worsening the gridlock. The footpath and drainage slabs have been removed to lay underground power cables by BESCOM and sewer pipelines by BWSSB. Large trenches have been dug without proper barricades or safety signs, and the absence of mandatory warning and information boards has drawn sharp criticism from the public.

"Safety signage and project boards are compulsory, but nothing has been installed here," complained several motorists navigating the chaos. Officials from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) said that white-topping will begin only after the completion of underground utility work, including drainage and electrical cables.

Due to the ongoing excavation, BMTC buses have been diverted through narrow alternate roads, leading to daily traffic snarls. Key connecting roads to Prakashnagar, Gayatrinagar, and Subramanyanagar are also dug up, forcing commuters to take long detours. Pedestrians, too, are struggling to access nearby shops as entire footpaths remain dug up and uneven.

Local businesses have been hit hard. With dust clouds and heaps of soil taking over the area, several shops, bakeries, and banks along the stretch are now inaccessible. Some have shut temporarily, while others report a sharp drop in footfall. "They've dug up a perfectly good road in the name of development. We've been eating dust for weeks. There's no proper access to shops or eateries," said Basavaraj, an ATM security guard.

Many residents and daily commuters have expressed frustration at the slow pace of work. "On such a busy road, the project should have been completed on time. At this rate, it may take another six months for smooth traffic to return," said Deepak, a regular commuter. The stretch, once a bustling corridor, has now become a dust bowl by day and a muddy mess during rains a scene of civic neglect in the name of urban development. **— BMB**

Footpaths turned into trenches as BESCOM and BWSSB dig up drains and cable lines, leaving pedestrians stranded and shop fronts buried under debris

DID YOU KNOW?

Scientists have long known that mummification can preserve remarkable details of ancient life, but the discovery in Wyoming has challenged previous assumptions. This particular style of preservation, seen before in other organisms, was not believed to occur on land. However, researchers now think that the same process could explain other mummified dinosaurs found at the site, suggesting a broader phenomenon of land-based mummification. Using clay molds from the fossil, scientists reconstructed what the duck-billed dinosaurs may have looked like in life — featuring spikes along their tails and hooves on their feet. The study, published Thursday in Science, provides crucial insights into how these dinosaurs appeared and lived. Understanding the conditions that allow such mummification to occur could lead to more discoveries. Palaeontologists emphasise the importance of searching not only for bones but also for traces of skin or soft tissue that are often overlooked or destroyed. Each new mummy uncovered offers a deeper understanding of how dinosaurs grew, behaved, and interacted with their environment — a true "treasure trove of information," as experts describe it. **— AP**

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH BANGALORE MIRROR

Write to us at mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

'I am amused': Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw denies Bengaluru road repair offer

Claim: Media reports and social media posts claimed that Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw offered to personally fund and repair Bengaluru's damaged roads, a statement that gained traction after former Union Minister P Chidambaram publicly welcomed and commented on the supposed proposal.
The Fact: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw clarified she never made any offer to repair Bengaluru roads, calling the reports "fabricated." She explained that one journalist's question to Deputy CM DK Shivakumar was misinterpreted as her offer, which then spread through unchecked media reporting.

Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw on Wednesday denied media reports claiming she offered to repair Bengaluru's damaged roads. Earlier, Congress MP and former Union Minister P. Chidambaram had stated that Shaw had volunteered to fund road repairs in the city, drawing widespread attention on social media. In a post on X, Chidambaram welcomed what he believed to be a generous proposal, but clarified that the real problem with public works lies not in funding but in their execution. The exchange came amid a larger online debate between Shaw and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar over the state of Bengaluru's civic infrastructure. However, Shaw firmly denied ever making such an offer.

What Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw said

Responding to Chidambaram's post, Shaw expressed amusement at the "fabricated" media reports. "The media have fabricated this news. I have never offered to repair the roads as is being suggested. I am amused that one journalist's question to the Dep CM on whether he would consider my supposed offer seems to have transitioned into mainstream media news! No fact checking? Really sad to see this and people like you being made to comment," she wrote on X. Shaw further clarified her position by reposting a headline that falsely claimed she had offered to fund road repairs. "I am watching with amusement how the media fabricates news. Please ask them to share their source of this info about my offer to repair roads," she said.

Chidambaram's model for accountability

Chidambaram, in his post, had praised what he believed was Shaw's initiative, calling it a "great offer," while using it to highlight systemic inefficiencies. "The problem with our public works is not the lack of public money; the problem is in the execution," he wrote.

He then proposed a model where private individuals or companies could supervise public projects funded by the government. "Governments can follow standard procedures—public money, tenders, etc.—to select a contractor. Once chosen, the contractor can be placed under the supervision of a willing company or industrialist like Mrs. Shaw," Chidambaram explained.

Under his suggestion, the supervising entity would ensure quality and timely completion of work and would also be accountable for cost overruns or penalties. He suggested that cities like Chennai or Bengaluru could be ideal pilot sites for such an initiative.

Shaw vs Karnataka government on Bengaluru roads

Shaw has been vocal about Bengaluru's deteriorating infrastructure, urging government action through social media. On Tuesday, she met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM Shivakumar to extend Diwali greetings and assured cooperation from the industry for the city's development. **— ET Bureau**

Frantic escape attempts as blaze devours bus, claims 25

As overnight tragedy strikes Bengaluru-bound bus with 44 passengers on NH-44, transport authorities point to violations by private operators

A Bengaluru-bound private sleeper bus from Hyderabad erupted into flames early Friday near Chinnatekur village, Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, after a motorcycle collided with it and got trapped under the vehicle. The friction sparked a fire that quickly engulfed the bus's fuel tank. At least 25 people died, while several others sustained injuries. Survivors described frantic escapes through windows and emergency exits. The bus was carrying 44 passengers, including the driver and conductor, along NH-44.

Police personnel and others gather near the private bus that caught fire in a collision, on Friday

Death toll soared

Most passengers were asleep during the overnight journey, making them vulnerable to the sudden blaze. The bus doors failed to open due to severed wiring, and safety hammers were absent, preventing quick evacuation. Some passengers sustained minor injuries while jumping from windows, while others perished before help could arrive.

Cause of incident

Officials said the motorcycle hit the bus from behind, got lodged underneath, and its petrol leaked, triggering the blaze. The bus driver attempted to stop and control the fire but could not. The vehicle was fully gutted within minutes.

Highway horror repeats

The Kurnool tragedy recalls a similar incident 12 years ago on the same highway, where a bus caught fire after hitting a culvert, killing at least 45 people. Overnight journeys remain particularly dangerous, with passengers unalert to sudden hazards.

India's second major fire

This is the second deadly bus fire in India in less than two weeks. Earlier this month, a passenger bus in Rajasthan caught fire, killing 20 people. The repetition of such tragedies has intensified calls for stricter enforcement of bus safety regulations.

Negligence under lens

Transport authorities cited repeated violations by private bus operators, including unfit vehicles, speed limit breaches, and lack of emergency preparedness. Experts emphasise that long-distance nighttime travel compounds risk.

Government promises action

Telangana Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Goud warned that unfit buses will be seized, and operators may face legal action including murder charges for negligence. A probe into the Kurnool fire has been launched. Officials announced a meeting of transport ministers and commissioners from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka to enforce stricter safety protocols, including speed monitoring on key highways.

Survivors like Jayant Kushwaha and Surya described terrifying escapes, including fractured legs and minor burns. Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer expressed grief, directing authorities to provide immediate medical care. Forensic teams are investigating the cause, while a control room has been set up to assist families of the victims. Most passengers were Hyderabad residents, including several IT professionals traveling for work.

Authorities stress that compliance with safety norms, functional emergency exits, and public awareness are critical to prevent future tragedies along India's busy highways. **BMB**

All states should work out safety measures: DKS

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that all the states should work out safety measures. DK Shivakumar said, "It is a tragic incident. It is a lesson for all of us. A probe should be conducted into the incident. All the states should work out safety measures following this. We pray for the families of the deceased."

Karnataka Minister MB Patil said the cause of the accident should be identified. Patil told reporters, "I pray for strength for the families affected, and wish a speedy recovery to the injured. Suitable compensation should also be provided to the bereaved families." **ANI**

Yeast: Strong enough to survive Mars

Researchers in the Department of Biochemistry (BC), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), along with collaborators at the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, have found that yeast, an indispensable ingredient in bread, beer, and biotechnology products, can withstand harsh conditions similar to those on Mars.

The team exposed yeast cells to high-intensity shock waves, akin to those produced by meteorite impacts on Mars, and perchlorate salts, toxic chemicals present in Martian soil. Using a High-Intensity Shock Tube for Astrochemistry (HISTA) in Bhalamurugan Sivaraman's lab at PRL, they simulated shock waves reaching Mach 5.6 intensity. The yeast cells were also treated with sodium perchlorate.

Remarkably, the yeast cells survived both shock waves and perchlorate, although their growth slowed down.

"One of the biggest hurdles was setting up the HISTA tube to expose live yeast cells to shock waves—something not attempted before—and then recovering yeast with minimum contamination for downstream experiments," explains lead author Riya Dhage, a project assistant in the lab of Purusharth I Rajyaguru, Associate Professor in BC.

Researchers say the key to yeast resilience likely lies in their ability to produce ribonucleoprotein (RNP) condensates—tiny, membrane-less structures that protect and reorganise mRNA under stress. Yeast mutants unable to form these structures were far less likely to survive. The results suggest that RNP condensates may act as biomarkers for cellular stress under extraterrestrial conditions.

"What makes this work unique is the integration of shock wave physics and chemical biology with molecular cell biology to probe how life might cope with Mars-like stressors," says Dhage. The findings highlight how baker's yeast could serve as an excellent model for India's astrobiology research. **BMB**

Frustrated owners push for Apartment Act overhaul

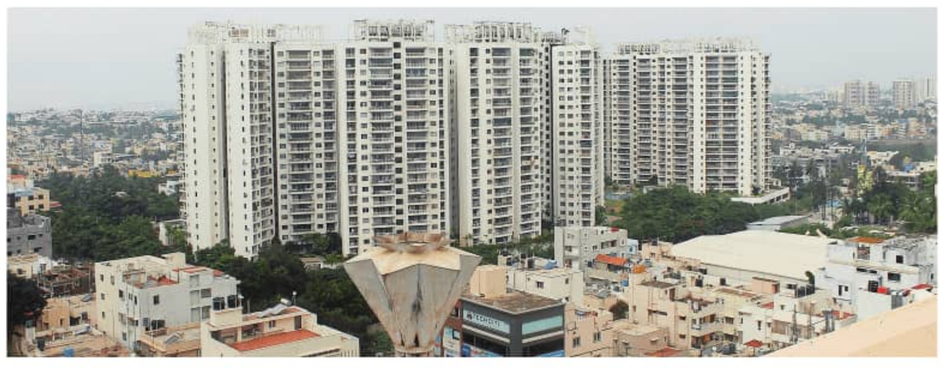
| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Despite repeated reminders and appeals from home buyers and residents' welfare associations for a new apartment act, the state government continues to delay preparing the much-needed draft, even after two years. Home buyers have been demanding that Karnataka replace the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972, which they consider outdated and lacking clarity on flat owners' rights and responsibilities.

Karnataka Home Buyers Forum Sanchalak Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar wrote to IT and BT Minister Priyank Kharge, requesting him to approach Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to bring out a new apartment act at the earliest. The aim is to bring all apartment owners' associations under a competent government authority to ensure better governance. "We come across media reports stating that the Karnataka Government is in the process of enacting a new apartment act to bring all apartment associations under the competent authority, but the government has not issued a gazette notification even after two years. Recently, we saw you advising cultural associations to register with the competent authority. We request you to write to the Hon'ble Chief Minister to enact the new apartment act at the earliest and bring all apartment associations under the competent authority for better governance. This will greatly help all flat residents of Karnataka," the letter read.

Appealing to the government directly, Vani Kishore, a home buyer, said she wanted the long-awaited act to enable apartment associations to register under a competent authority. "This issue has been pending for close to five decades. The new apartment act is necessary for proper audits and elections at apartments," Vani Kishore said.



"This issue has been pending for close to five decades. The new apartment act is necessary for proper audit and elections at apartments.
— Vani Kishore, Home Buyer

Highlighting the state's lag behind other states, Swetha, a home buyer from Belagere in Bengaluru East, emphasised the importance of the new act in transferring land rights to home buyers and preventing fraudulent misuse of land documents. "In my case, the land was transferred from the landlord to his son in 2022, though I bought the flat in 2021. How is it that I am a legal owner of the unit, holding a UDS share in the land, yet the land was transferred to someone else when all flats were sold? Our names do not appear in the land records. Though I filed a complaint with RERA to transfer the land title to the residents' welfare association's name, we have not seen any relief. To avoid such issues, we want the government to enact the new act," Swetha said.

Home buyers and associations continue to urge the state government to finalise and notify the new apartment act, which they believe will provide clarity on ownership, strengthen governance, and protect residents' rights across Karnataka.

Consensual or not, intimate relationship with minor punishable by law

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

across the state were found pregnant following incidents of sexual assault.

Experts say that many young men mistakenly believe that being in a romantic relationship ensures marriage, unaware that consensual relationships with minors are punishable by law. Once a POCSO case is filed, the accused automatically becomes a criminal in the eyes of society, even before the trial begins. The process—from filing of the chargesheet to court hearings—can take years, leaving the accused and their families to face immense social stigma.

"Many youths make hasty decisions in love, unaware of the legal consequences. Even if the relationship was consensual, the law treats it as an offence when the girl is below 18. As a result, these young men are branded as criminals and end up serving long jail terms," said a senior police official.

The psychological toll is equally devastating. Experts highlight that accused youths often battle guilt,

anxiety, and depression during prolonged legal proceedings. "By the time they prove their innocence, their social and mental health is already shattered," sources from the prison department revealed.

Commenting on the trend, Shashidhar Kosumbe, Member of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, said, "Around half of those serving time in such cases are young men who were unaware of the girl's age or the implications of the POCSO Act. Instead of letting emotions dictate their future, they must focus on education, career, and building a responsible life."

While heinous crimes like murder or robbery attract public outrage, POCSO cases are different — here, the law does not distinguish between consent and coercion when the victim is a minor.

Authorities and child rights activists are now urging awareness campaigns in schools and colleges to educate young people about the legal age of consent and the implications of the POCSO Act.

Your Connect

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

DEVANAHALLI

1433SFT plot in Parklane PC realty. Rs.7000/sft. Gated community on STRR. Brokers strictly excuse. 9686111709

HENNUR

3BHK Luxury Flats For Sale/ Rent at Promax Dreamville Home, Hennur Main Road, Kothanur, Bng-77. 8073977742 / 6364588805

KENGERI

SITE FOR SALE BDA 40*60 GnanaBharathi layout 3rd Block Bangalore.1 st Allotee 40 FT Road, 9035896668,9148749992 9620014508

RAJARAJESHWARI NAGAR

30X46 South Facing A-Khatha Site in RR ngr, ready for construction. Bhd Natl Hill View School. Price: 11k/sft | Loan available Cnt: 9900020432

RMV EXTENSION

SALE
1) **PEBBLE BAY**
4BHK Flat, Servant Room
North Facing, Pool View
2) **Ready to Movein**
Luxury 3BHK
East and North Facing ,Builder Floor.
SUPREME ESTATES
COMMERCIAL SITES
New Bel Road and Sanjaynagar 40*60, 50*80
60ft Road Width
Call /WhatsApp 9632974714

SARJAPUR ROAD

GATED, 3 Towers, 322 Units, No pre EMI till Dec-2026 BMRDA & RERA Appvd, 2,3 & 4 BHK's starting 62 Lakhs onwards @ Sarjapur-Attebele Rd. Raja.9966744544

VIJAYA NAGAR

BDA East Facing 40X60 Semi Commercial Site for SALE Rs.28000/sqft Vijaya Nagar Service Road Near Attiguppe Metro Station -8277443096.

FACTORY BLDG FOR SALE
Land Area: 10,000 sq. ft
Built-up Area: 15,000 sq. ft (RCC + Steel Structure)
Power: 250 kVA Transformer with BESCOM Licence
Location: Bommasandra 2nd Stage
Status: Ready-to-Use Industrial Facility
Property Highlights
- Well-maintained office + production area with modern interiors.
- Ideal for biotech, EV, automation, or light-engineering use.
- Immediate possession, clear title, compliant with KIADB norms.

Contact: 98450 40253 / 93428 82525

ESTATE & PROPERTIES

FOR SALE : Robusta Coffee Plantation of 11.30Acres with two houses with commercial conversion and 500ft width land towards NH - 75 in Sakleshpura Tq With clear Title. Contact : 90356 09555

FOR SALE : 22.20Acres Coffee Plantation (Robusta) with a 4bhk house 750mtrs width land towards NH-75 in Sakleshpura Tq. Cont: 90356 09555

OUTSIDE BANGALORE

MYSORE

Rent Office Space
Saraswathipuram
MYSORE
Grnd - 600, 1&2 Floor -2500 sft
Ph: 9886653258

jobs

OTHER VACANCIES

MULTIPLE VACANCIES

Exciting Career Opportunity
Vijaya Nagar & Koramangala
For Financial Sector, (MNC)
Required Financial Advisor, Team Leaders, Dev. Managers.
Retired Bankers, Govt. CASA Employees, Mutual Fund Brokers, Sales Managers, or any other Financial Institution Professionals also Graduate House Makers.
Age above 30-65yrs, Huge Income, Incentives. Fast track career growth.
Contact:
7795883094 / 8277059719

SITUATION VACANT

ACADEMIC

TEACHER

1.WANTED Teachers, and HM for School. Engineering graduates can also apply. Ph. 9242484476, send Bio data to email: info16bfet@gmail.com

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Saranya S D/O, Sampath Kumar R/o Flat No 202 1st Floor The Apartment Known As Meticulous Habitat No731 1st Cross Road 1st Block Hrbr Layout Subbaiahnapalya Kalyan Nagar Po Blr-560043 have changed my name to Nayanika Ayappan S.

I, Mohamad Zameer S/o Mohammed Munawar R/a 39/4, 5th cross, 9th main road, shamanna garden, bangalore 26. Shall henceforth be known as Mohammed Zameer vide affidavit dt 23.10.2025 sworn before Deepa M, Blr-26.

I, Rafiuddin Ahmed Hassan Khan S/o Hassan Khan residing at #302 3rd floor, Sam Mansion, AMC Road, M M Layout, Bengaluru 560032 would like to officially change my name to Rafiuddin Ahmed for all purposes.

Bennett & Coleman
THE TIMES OF INDIA

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Times of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of the products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and the owners of The Times of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

I, Shameeda Banu Rafiuddin Ahmed w/o Rafiuddin Ahmed residing at #302 3rd floor, Sam Mansion, AMC Road, M M Layout, Bengaluru 560032 would like to officially change my name to Shameeeda Banu for my passport renewal

I Rachel Sam Residing at No 115/4, Kadusonnapana Gate, Near Richardson Faces Hospital, Bande Hosur, Kannur Post, Blr-562149 I Have changed my name to Rachel Mathew

I, MOHAMED MUSTAFA, R/a 41C 5th Main Rd Hanfia Masjid Rd, Khushalnagar KG Halli Bengaluru-45 I, have changed my name to MOHAMMED MUSTAFA, Vide affidavit dated 23.10.2025 Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore

I, Govind Aakash, S/o K Guna Shekaran, R/o No. 19, 2nd Cross,Kalappa Layout,Basavanagar, Marathahalli Colony Post, Bangalore - 560037, have changed my name to G Govind Aakash for all future purposes.

I, Mitali Makode W/O, Nitin Baraskar R/o Kumari Elite Apartments Flat No 307 Yajman Layout 10th B Cross Begur, Bangalore -560068 have changed my name to Mitali Baraskar for all purposes

I, Bal Krishna Singh S/o Jagdish Singh R/o #302,3rd floor,I Block, Ananth Nagar Electronic City B'lore-560100 have changed my name to Balkrishna Jagdish Singh.

I, Nazia Hussian W/o Vaseem Pasha, R/o No 9 5th Cross Sirsi Road, M D Block Chamrajpet Bengaluru 560018 Changed my Name as Nazia Hussain.

I Gaurav S/O, Madan Lal Sindhwani R/o A2-034, Snn Raj Etternia, Silver County Road, Bangalore South,bengaluru Karnataka 560068 have changed my name to Gaurav Sindhwani

I Yashika jain V Residing at #40,1st Flr, D No 4, Balus paradise, WAT street, Basavanagudi, Blr- 560004 I am changing my name to Yashika jain

I, Mysore Madhukar Abhiram S/o M B Madhukar R/o 267, Manasara Road Indira Nagar Mysore-570010 have changed my name to Abhiram Madhukar

I, Sabiha R/o No 726 9th main 4th B cross K N Extension Yeshwanthpura Bengaluru 560022 Have changed my name to Sabiya Bano for all Purposes

I, Roopa R/O No 679 Pipe line Road 4th Main Srinagar Bengaluru Have changed my to Roopa Kariyappa for all Purposes.

I nagesha c s/o chikkaiah R/o No 196, 6th cross, 5G kaval, D group layout, Bengaluru-91, Have changed my name to C Nagesh

I Rachel Sam Residing at No 115/4, Kadusonnapana Gate, Near Richardson Faces Hospital, Bande Hosur, Kannur PO, Blr-562149 I Have changed my name to Rachel Mathew

I, Shakila Banu W/o Nisar Ahmed Khan S.K R/a 10/1, 1st floor, 4th cross, nehru road, New Guddadahalli, Blr -26. Shall henceforth be known as Shakeela Begum vide affidavit dt 23.10.2025 sworn before DEEPA M, Blr-26.

GET NOTICED

Aishwarya Gold Company
ಐಶ್ವರ್ಯ ಗೋಲ್ಡ್ ಕಂಪನಿ
"ಫ್ರಾಂಚೈಸಿ" ಕೊಡಲಾಗುವುದು
ಕಡಿಮೆ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ
ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಆದಾಯ
ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ **9886053533**

SRI KANCHIPURAM RESHME CENTRE
10 Days only
SPOT CASH
We Buy Old (Damaged) Silk Sarees, Silk Dhothies, Silver Jarigai,
Tissue Sarees, Banaras, Mysore Silk at any Condition, Stone Articles (Best Pricewith Jaree, At any conditions.
SPOT CASH 25-10-2025 - 04-11-2025
SRI KANCHIPURAM RESHME CENTRE
No.58, Krishna Building, Sampige Road, 5th Cross, Near Malleswaram Bridge, Bangalore.
Call: 9632781499

ADMISSION OPEN

SRI SRI INSTITUTE OF PHYSIOTHERAPY (SSIPT)
(Recognised by Govt. of Karnataka & Affiliated to RGUHS, Bengaluru – under SSRVM Trust)
SSIP

Admissions Open!
Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPT)
AY 2025-26
Join the inaugural batch of Sri Sri Institute of Physiotherapy and begin your journey toward a rewarding career in healthcare!

COURSE DETAILS
Eligibility: 12th (PCB) with minimum 50% aggregate
Duration: 4.5 years (including 6-month internship)
Last Date to Apply: 30th October 2025
Session Begins: 3rd November 2025
Annual tuition Fee: ₹60,000/-

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
- Only 40 seats in the first batch
- Experienced faculty & renowned hospital training
- Integrated learning with Ayurveda, Nursing & Allied Colleges
- Affordable fees & comfortable hostel accommodation

WHY CHOOSE SSIPT, BENGALURU
- 285-bedded multi-specialty hospital for hands-on clinical training
- 12+ years of physiotherapy excellence and 50+ daily OPD patients
- Exposure to advanced techniques from international faculty
- Global placement opportunities and industry collaborations
- Serene, value-based campus with modern facilities

Campus: SSRVM Educational Campus, Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru
Apply Now: https://forms.gle/G7Ux4LgoKktDyaT96
www.ssipas.org **ssiopt@ssrvm.org**
75590 87443 / 88258 91315

India bids adieu to its adman

Condolence messages pour in as Piyush Pandey dies at 70

INFOCUS REMEMBERING PIYUSH

'India's Adman', Piyush Pandey, who redefined advertising in the country by making Hindi mainstream with liberal dosages of humour and broke the mould of English-dominated campaigns, died on Friday morning due to illness.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Piyush Goyal, condoled the death of Jaipur-born Pandey (70), who gave memorable ads for brands such as Cadbury's (Asli Swaad Zindagi ka), Fevicol (Yeh Fevicol ka Jod Hai, Tutega Nahi) and the famous political slogan 'Abki Baar, Modi Sarkaar'.

"Shri Piyush Pandey Ji was admired for his creativity. He made a monumental contribution to the world of advertising and communications," Modi said in a post on X.

"I will fondly cherish our interactions over the years. Saddened by his passing away. My thoughts are with his family and admirers. Om Shanti," the Prime Minister said.

Pandey had joined Ogilvy India in the early 80's and stayed with it for over four decades, almost becoming synonymous with the firm. Some of his works for brands like Fevicol, Cadbury and Asian Paints remain as masterpieces till date. He had stepped down as executive chairman of Ogilvy India in 2023 and took up an advisory role. A winner of many global advertising industry awards, Pandey was also recipient of India's civilian honour Padma Shri.

Born to a family of nine children, before becoming 'India's Adman' Pandey tried his hands in tea tasting and construction work, besides being a part of national obsession -- cricket and represented Rajasthan state in Ranji Trophy.

While to the outside world he was the 'Ad Man', to his siblings, Pandey was a man who nurtured every relationship.

Actor Ila Arun, his elder sister, told PTI that Pandey valued and nurtured every relationship, which ensured that many of the leaders he met ceased to be just clients.

She called him the naughtiest of the nine siblings and kite flying was his favourite activity.

"He stayed with me for five years. And he never left his advertising company (Ogilvy), which allowed him complete freedom to build campaigns the way he liked," she said.

In the late 1980s, Pandey penned lyrics for the government-produced and widely popular 'Mile Sur Mera Tumhara' song, which celebrates the rich diversity in the country. He also wrote several books, including "Pandeymonium: Piyush Pandey on Advertising" and "The Making of a Brand: Asian Paints".

He is survived by his wife Neeta, a dog lover. The couple do not have any children, and Pandey used to call their dogs their family. — PTI

SOCIAL TATTLE

Image of the day

A photo was shared on Reddit by user ordinary_sapien9878 under r/Bengaluru, noting that although it wasn't raining or drizzling, mild winds made the environment feel clean with almost no smell of pollution from fireworks. The user mentioned that Bengaluru's air quality remained good during Diwali, in contrast to cities like Mumbai and Delhi where air conditions ranged from severe to poor, describing the city's cleaner air as a subtle "flex."

What's Tweeting

karthik ☆ Visva @karthiksaje · 52m
All is well until a fire breaks out. In India, neither central nor state governments truly value citizens' lives. No other country sees so many bus fires & accidents with lives lost. Here, only God & luck seem to protect us.
#hyderabad #Bengaluru

A post was shared on X by user @karthiksaje about the frequent bus fire tragedies and lack of safety enforcement in Indian cities. The post stated that everything appears fine until a fire is reported, and that citizens' lives are not truly valued by either central or state authorities. It further mentioned that no other country witnesses so many bus fires and fatal accidents, with protection seemingly left to God and luck.

A post was published on X by user @anekalwatchdog regarding the unhygienic condition and poor maintenance at Lakkasandra bus stop. With a photo of the condition the user demanded immediate action and that the area must be cleaned, and that the responsible parties should be penalized. The elevator at the bus stop was also reported to be non-functional.

AnekalWatchDog
IMMEDIATE action is demanded! Clean this disgrace NOW. A penalize the responsible parties. And Elevator is not working.
Lakkasandra bus stop
@BBMPCOMM @BBMPCares
#Bangalore #Shame
#Lakkasandra #SwachhBharat
#CivicNegligence #SHS2025

Revathy Ashok @RevathyAshok · 9h
Great presence of mind Vinod Jacob and Alexander James ! Thank you police ! citizens have to be constantly alert . @BPACofficial
Swift action by police draws public applause
bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/crim... via @bangaloremirror
bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com

Bangalore Mirror tagged

A post was shared on X by user @RevathyAshok, who tagged Bangalore Mirror's report and applauded the presence of mind shown by Vinod Jacob and Alexander James during an incident. It was stated that swift police action had drawn public appreciation, thanking the officers for their prompt response. The post also reflected how, time and again, the police are compelled to step into areas of civic responsibility.

IN BRIEF

Actress Divya Suresh quizzed in hit-&-run

Former Bigg Boss contestant and actress Divya Suresh was interrogated by Byatarayanapura Traffic Police on Wednesday in connection with a hit-and-run case that left a woman seriously injured.

The incident occurred on October 4 on MM Road near Bapujinagar.

According to police, Divya's car allegedly rammed into a two-wheeler carrying three people Kiran, Anusha, and Anitha around 1.30 am. The trio was heading to a hospital near Girinagar when a stray dog chased their bike. To avoid it, Kiran veered slightly right, and at that moment, Divya's car allegedly hit the two-wheeler, throwing them off balance.

Anitha, a tailor from Mysuru who was seated at the rear, suffered a fractured kneecap and has been unable to walk since the accident. She was treated at a private hospital, with medical expenses amounting to nearly ₹2 lakh.

CCTV footage confirmed that Divya was behind the wheel when the collision occurred. Police said the actress fled the scene without stopping and has not reached out to the victim or her family.

Based on a complaint filed by Kiran, an FIR has been registered, and further investigation is underway.

—BMB

Govt boost to organ transplantation

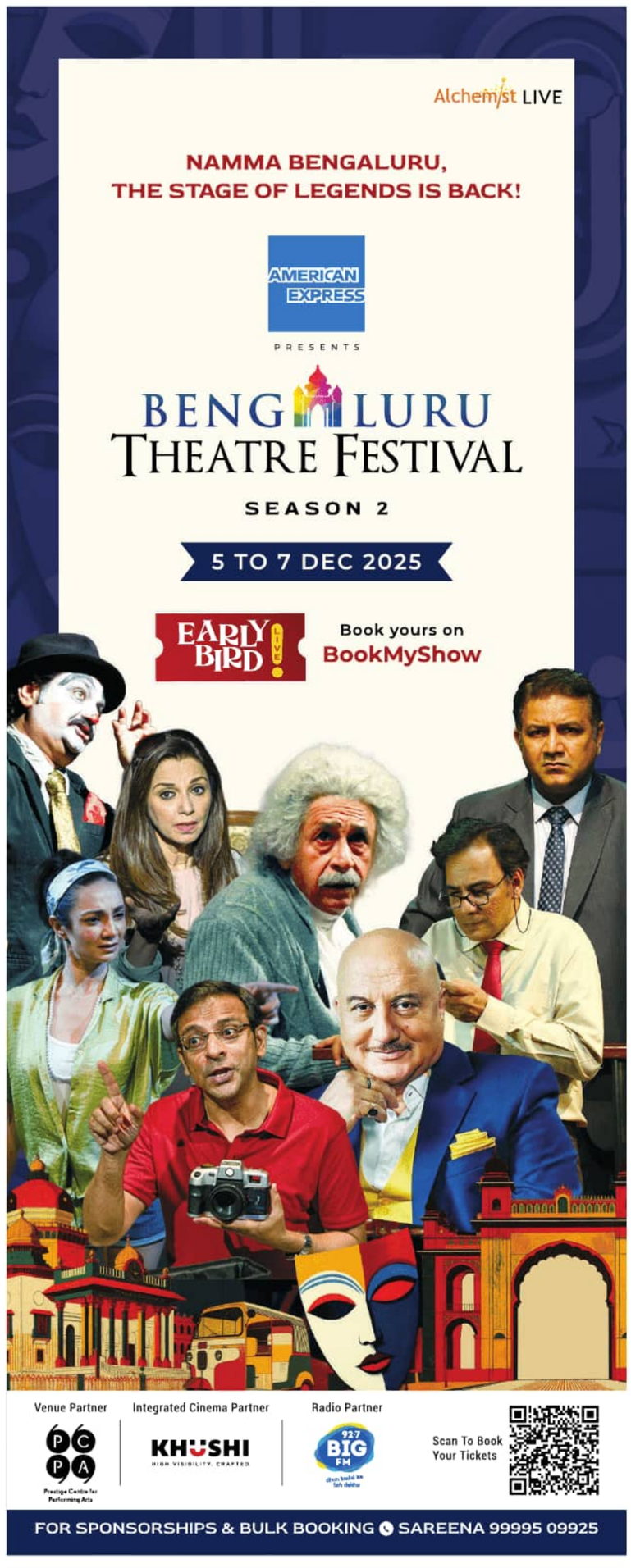
Advanced medical services to be made affordable

The Karnataka government is according top priority to make organ transplantation affordable and accessible to all, Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil said on Friday.

Inaugurating the 2025 induction programme for MBBS and Allied Health Science students at the Adichunchanagiri Institute of Medical Sciences in Mandya, the minister said that the state was committed to transforming Karnataka into a "healthier state".

"We have already implemented key programmes through our Institute of Gastroenterology and Organ Transplantation. Organ transplants are being successfully conducted in government institutions. Our goal is to ensure good health for all," Patil said in a statement issued by his office.

He noted that organ transplants in private hospitals often cost several lakhs of rupees, and the government is committed to offering these advanced medical services at affordable costs using state-of-the-art equipment. —PTI



One thing I would be worried about is Virat actually missed the line of the ball. Virat planted his foot in line with the ball. That is telling me a story that he needs time in the middle. In Sydney, there is no reason why Virat should not make runs —R Ashwin

BangaloreMirror | 12
Saturday, October 25, 2025
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/thebangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

COMING THROUGH, WOMEN IN BLUE

Pratika Rawal, left, celebrates with captain Harmanpreet Kaur, right, and vice captain Smriti Mandhana after taking the catch of New Zealand's Suzie Bates during an ICC Women's World Cup ODI match at the DY Patil Stadium, on Thursday

Skipper credits Smriti, Pratika for converting starts as win against NZ takes India to semis

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur gave credit to openers Smriti Mandhana and Pratika Rawal for converting their start into contrasting centuries that set up India's 53-run win via DLS Method over New Zealand, which sealed a place in the semifinals of the ICC Women's ODI World Cup.

Mandhana scored an aggressive 95-ball 109 while Rawal compiled 122 off 134 balls as they shared a massive 212-run partnership as India posted a massive 340/3 in 49 overs. Though New Zealand were set a revised target of 325 in 44 overs following another rain interruption, clinical bowling by the Indians restricted the White Ferns to 271/8 in 44 overs.

Harmanpreet said it was not as easy as it looked, and the team had to fight all the way. "It was not easy. Credit goes to the entire team for the way we fought today. We knew how important this game was; the entire team was charged up and happy with how we played today.

"We were getting starts, but unfortunately, were unable to make it big. Credit goes to Smriti and Pratika for the way they took responsibility. We got a very good start," said Harmanpreet Kaur in the post-match presentation at the Dr DY Patil Stadium on Thursday.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

India also came up with an inspired decision to promote Jemimah Rodrigues to No.3, and the Mumbai batter blazed to a 55-ball 76 to help India to a massive total. "When they (Smriti and Pratika) both scored 200 runs on the board, that is when we decided if we can put Jemi (in at 3). The way she batted that is what the entire world was expecting from her," said Harman.

The India skipper acknowledged that it is not easy to play at home because of the huge expectations, but said the team has decided to enjoy the situation instead of considering it as pressure.

"Whenever you are playing at home, everyone expects a lot from you. As a team, we discuss that this is our home and the crowd is always cheering for us. This is a moment to enjoy rather than just putting pressure (on ourselves)," she added.

Kaur acknowledges it is not easy to play at home because of expectations, but says team has decided to enjoy the situation

She was happy with the way her team handled the situation and executed their plans. "Really happy with the way we executed. It was not easy (after three defeats). But everyone in the team stood up. The way we lifted each other that shows how positive we were. We knew the last three games did not go well, but we knew we are going to change it. Today was the right time, and really happy (we could do it)," said the skipper.

Harmanpreet Kaur was looking forward to the last league match against Bangladesh to further fine-tune things before the semifinals. "We have been doing really well while batting, but bowling is something that I personally feel we have to put ourselves strong. As a bowling unit as well, hopefully, we can come together and show a better way," said Harmanpreet. —IANS

Ranji: Karnataka eye Goa scalp

After squandering a golden chance to garner three points against Saurashtra, Karnataka will be looking to pocket as many points as possible against a confident Goa at Shivamogga.

On the paper, Karnataka are firm favourites to gain at least three points but the way Goa hammered Chandigarh for an innings victory underlines that they are no longer mere pushovers.

They have some proven performers like Lalit Yadav, Darshan Misal and Suyash Prabhudesai who can challenge any team on their days.

Karnataka, on the other hand, will eye some big runs from their premier batters to pile pressure on Goa.

Skipper Mayank Agarwal, Devdutt Padikkal, Karun Nair and R Smaran, all reached fifties against Saurashtra without converting them into a big score.

On the bowling front, they have enough resources in Shreyas Gopal, Shikhar Shetty and Mohsin Khan to keep Goa batters on tenterhooks. —PTI

Asia Cup trophy moved again

The Asia Cup trophy drama continues to take new turns weeks after the conclusion of the final between India and Pakistan on September 28 in Dubai. According to sources, the trophy has been removed from the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) headquarters and relocated to a different location in Abu Dhabi.

The impasse over the Asia Cup trophy began with India's refusal to accept the title from Naqvi, who also serves as Pakistan's interior minister amid cross-border tensions between the two nations after their five-wicket win.

As India awaits the trophy's return, the entire story has now taken a new turn. A BCCI official visited the ACC headquarters last week and asked about the silverware. The staff informed the official that the trophy was moved to a different location in Abu Dhabi. —IANS

India aim to avoid clean sweep in final ODI against Oz

India will look to avoid a clean sweep defeat when they take the field for the third and final ODI against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday. With the hosts sealing the series 2-0 through a narrow two-wicket win in Adelaide, it becomes important for India to get a consolation victory.

With just a day's gap, there isn't much time for India to regroup and avoid being clean-swept for the first time since their 2022 tour of South Africa. Rohit Sharma's gritty 73 and Shreyas Iyer's calm 61 offered some resistance, but concerns remain around Virat Kohli's form, who registered consecutive ducks for the first time in his ODI career. With both veterans potentially playing their final match on Australian soil, India will hope for the batting stalwarts to sign off from the ODI leg of the trip on a high. Having fielded an unchanged eleven in the first two games, India may consider changes for the Sydney clash. —IANS

Pakistan pull out of Junior Hockey World Cup in India

Pakistan has pulled out of the Junior Hockey World Cup to be held in India in November-December, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) confirmed to PTI on Friday.

FIH said Pakistan's replacement team for the November 28-December 10 event, to be held in Chennai and Madurai, will be announced soon.

"We can confirm that the Pakistan Hockey Federation has notified the International Hockey Federation (FIH) that its team initially qualified for the upcoming FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025 won't participate eventually," FIH said in a statement released to PTI. "The team replacing Pakistan for this event will be announced soon," the statement added.

Pakistan were placed in Group B alongside India, Chile, and Switzerland and it remains to be seen which team replaces them.

Hockey India (HI) along with the Government of Tamil Nadu, host of the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2025, unveil the tournament logo event in Chennai

This is the second event in India that Pakistan has pulled out from after the men's Asia Cup in Rajgir, Bihar held from August 29 to September 7 this year.

The sporting ties between India and Pakistan have deteriorated since the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack and India's subsequent Operation Sindoor. The Indian government recently announced a new policy under which it will not engage in bilateral sporting contests with Pakistan but will continue to compete against them in multi-nation tournaments.

No knowledge says Hockey India

Hockey India however, said it has no clue about the Pakistan's withdrawal.

"We have no information from FIH that Pakistan has withdrawn. I had a conversation with Pakistan Hockey Federation officials a month-and-a half-back, and they had confirmed their participation," HI secretary general Bholanth Singh told PTI. "What transpired after that I have no knowledge. Our duty is to conduct the best tournament as hosts and hope India wins the title. It is now upto FIH to announce a replacement for Pakistan."

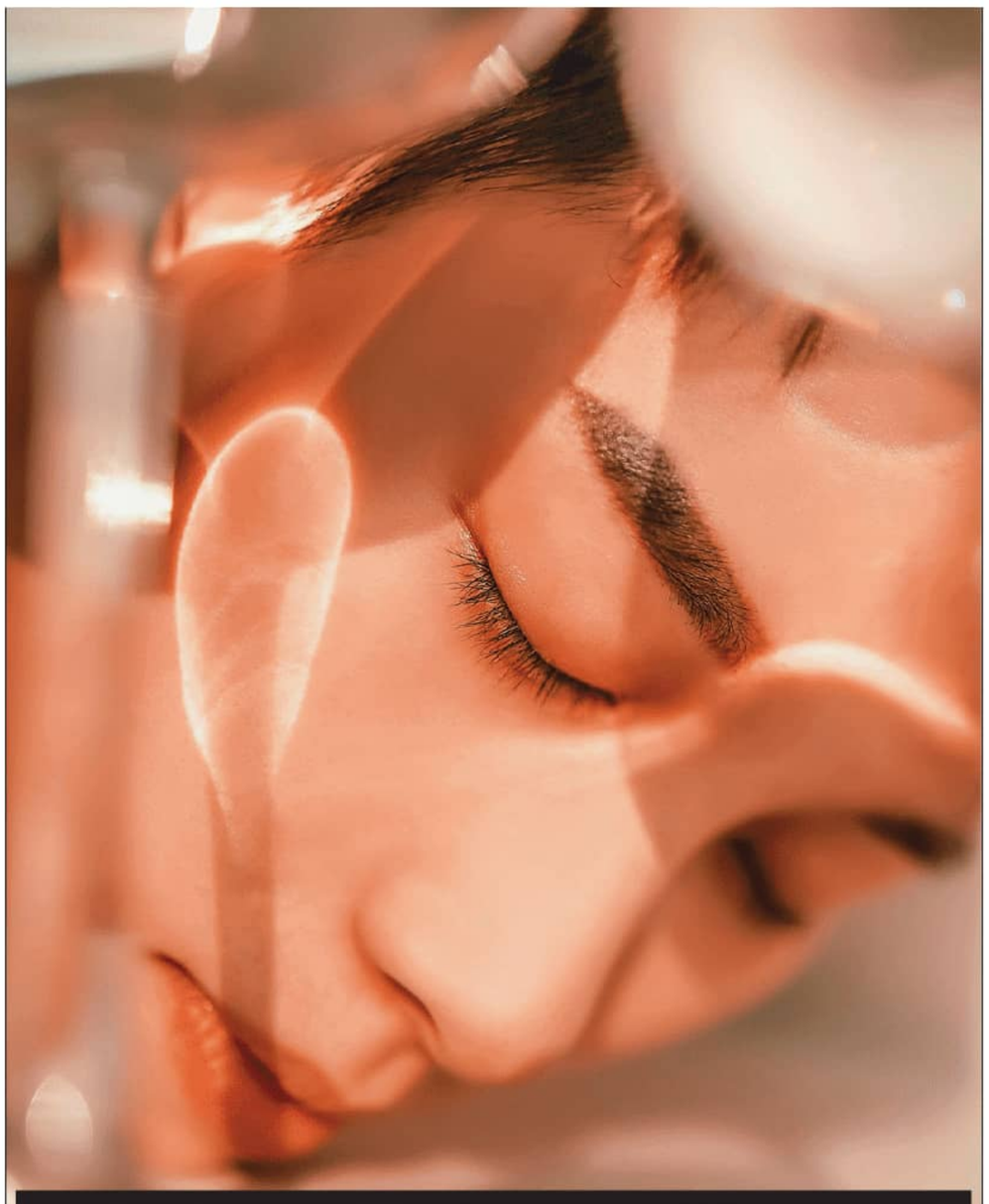
PHF look for neutral venue

Interestingly, while FIH says it will look for a replacement team, Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has expressed willingness to compete in the tournament at a neutral venue.

PHF secretary general Rana Mujahid said on Friday it had been decided in principle the national junior team would not travel to India due to the existing tensions between the two countries and it was conveyed to the FIH. "We have, at the same time, urged the FIH to arrange for a neutral venue to allow us to play our matches in the Junior World Cup as missing out on major events because they are being held in India is hurting our hockey," the Olympian said in Lahore. —PTI

HEALTH TIP: Grey hair often loses its natural oils, making it more prone to dryness and dullness

During humid weather, a weekly deep conditioning treatment can help restore moisture balance and smooth the hair cuticle



POST-FESTIVAL CARE FOR SKIN

7 steps to repair your skin post Deepavali

After all the lights, sweets, and celebrations of Deepavali, your skin might be feeling a little less festive. The combination of heavy makeup, late nights, oily foods and exposure to fireworks and pollution can leave it dull, tired and dehydrated. While your spirit is glowing, your skin might be in need of a little extra love and recovery.

Here are some ways to do that:

1 Deep Cleanse To Remove Impurities

After the festive week, your skin often feels dull and congested due to layers of makeup, pollution and excess oil. The first and most important step is to deeply cleanse your face. Use a gentle yet effective cleanser that suits your skin type, gel-based for oily skin, creamy for dry and foam-free for sensitive skin.

Double cleansing works wonders here: start with an oil-based cleanser to dissolve makeup and sunscreen, followed by a mild face wash to clear out dirt and impurities. This helps your skin breathe again and restores its natural glow. Avoid harsh soaps that can strip your skin of essential moisture and always pat dry instead of rubbing your face.

2 Exfoliate Away Dead Skin

During Diwali, late nights and heavy makeup can lead to dullness and clogged pores. Exfoliation helps remove the buildup of dead skin cells that make your skin look tired. Choose a mild scrub with natural ingredients like rice powder or oats if you prefer physical exfoliation.

Alternatively, opt for a chemical exfoliant with gentle acids like lactic or mandelic acid for deeper rejuvenation. Exfoliate just two times a week to avoid irritation. This process helps your skin renew itself and allows other skincare products to penetrate better, making your face appear fresher and smoother.

3 Rehydrate With a Soothing Toner

Fireworks, pollution, and festive makeup can leave your skin feeling dry and sensitive. After cleansing and exfoliating, apply a hydrating toner to balance your skin's pH and calm any redness. Go for alcohol-free toners enriched with ingredients like rose water, cucumber, aloe vera or hyaluronic acid.

These soothe the skin, tighten pores, and prepare it for further hydration. You can even store your toner in the refrigerator for a few minutes before applying and it gives an instant cooling effect that refreshes your skin after long days of celebration.

4 Nourish With a Repairing Serum

Once your skin is clean and toned, it's time to feed it with nutrients. A good repairing serum can help fix post-festive skin damage caused by pollution, sugar and sleepless nights. Look for serums containing Vitamin C to brighten dullness, Niacinamide to even out your skin tone and Hyaluronic Acid to restore lost moisture.

Apply a few drops on your face and neck, gently patting it in for better absorption. Serums work on a deeper level, helping to strengthen the skin barrier and bring back that healthy Diwali glow without greasiness.

5 Moisturise Generously

Moisturising is the key to healing tired skin. No matter your skin type, skipping this step can lead to dryness, flakiness, or excess oil production. Pick a moisturiser that's rich but non-sticky and gel-based for oily skin, lightweight lotion for combination skin and creamy for dry skin.

Ingredients like ceramides, shea butter and squalane help lock in hydration and repair your skin overnight. Apply it twice daily, especially before bed, so your skin can recover while you sleep. This step ensures your skin stays soft, plump and radiant long after the festive week.

6 Detox With Face Masks

Face masks are a wonderful way to give your skin an instant refresh. After all the late nights and indulgent treats, your skin might need some extra pampering. Choose a clay mask if you want to purify your pores and absorb excess oil or a sheet mask infused with hyaluronic acid or green tea for deep hydration.

You can even try homemade masks with natural ingredients like honey, turmeric, and yogurt for a gentle detox. Using a mask twice a week helps calm irritation, restore glow, and make your skin feel rejuvenated from within.

7 Protect With Sunscreen Every Day

Even after the festive season, sun protection remains non-negotiable. Damaged or sensitive skin needs extra care, and sunscreen acts as a protective shield against harmful UV rays and pollution. Use a broad-spectrum SPF 30 or higher and make sure to reapply it every 3–4 hours if you're outdoors.

Sunscreen prevents tanning, dark spots and premature aging, especially important when your skin is healing. Opt for a lightweight, non-comedogenic formula that doesn't feel sticky and works well under makeup.

—Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Study links bright light at night with 56% higher risk of heart failure

Being exposed to bright light at night, including scrolling through one's phone, could be related with a 56 per cent higher risk of heart failure, and can be a significant risk factor for cardiovascular diseases among adults aged 40 and above, according to a new study.

Researchers led by those at Australia's Flinders University analysed more than 13 million hours of light exposure data collected through sensors that nearly 89,000 people in the UK wore on their wrist. The participants were followed up for more than nine years.

Exposure to light at night was also linked with a 47 per cent higher risk of a heart attack, 32 per cent of coronary artery disease and 28 per cent of stroke.

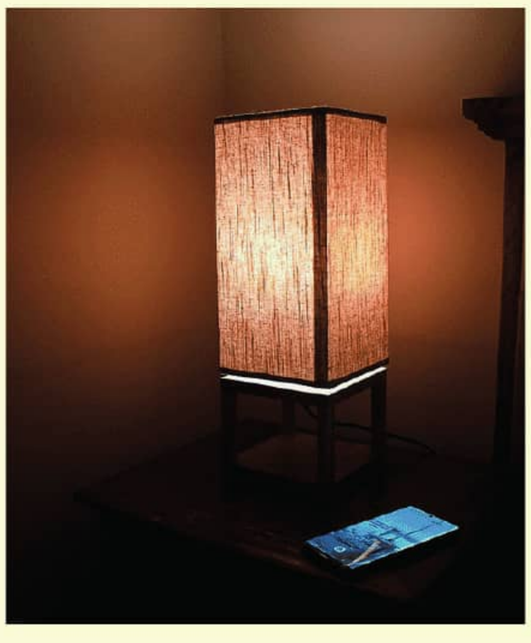
"Night light exposure was a significant risk factor for developing cardiovascular diseases among adults older than 40 years," authors wrote in the study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open.

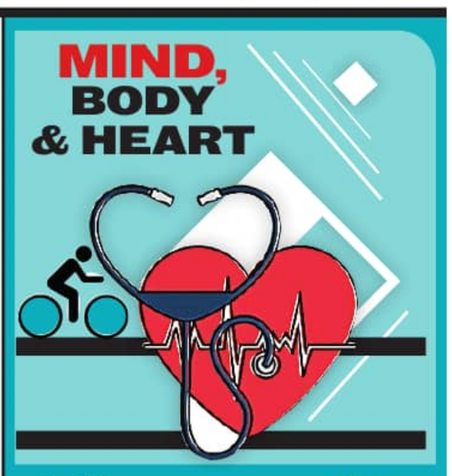
Lead author Daniel Windred, research associate at Flinders University, said, "This is the first large-scale study to show that simply being exposed to light at night is a strong and independent risk factor for heart disease."

"Disrupting your body's internal circadian clock by repeatedly exposing yourself to bright light at night, when it would typically be dark otherwise, will put you at a higher risk of developing dangerous heart issues," Windred said.

The study also found that women and younger people were especially vulnerable to the impact of light exposure at night.

—PTI





All you need to know about...

Dementia

Fluid disruption
An impaired movement of the brain's cerebrospinal fluid, which helps remove waste, could explain how poor sleep and heart conditions can increase one's risk of dementia, according to a study.

Glymphatic system
Other functions of the cerebrospinal fluid include cushioning the central nervous system from shocks and delivering nutrients. The colourless fluid is part of the glymphatic system.
Researchers led by those at the UK's University of Cambridge said the glymphatic system is considered important for protecting one against varied common forms of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease in which proteins called amyloid clump up and form toxic 'plaques'.

What is dementia
Dementia is a neurodegenerative disorder in which memory, speech and thought processes are steadily affected with age, and can eventually disrupt daily activities.

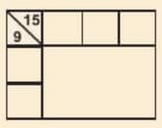
The study
The study, published in the journal Alzheimer's and Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association, looked at whether a disorder of the brain's small blood vessels -- which affects blood flow and can cause vascular dementia -- and cardiovascular risk factors such as blood pressure can damage the glymphatic system and increase risk of dementia.
Analysing MRI brain scans of 40,000 adults in the UK Biobank, the researchers found three biomarkers that may help predict one's risk of dementia over a period of 10 years.
The biomarkers include noting how water spreads along the tiny channels around blood vessels known as perivascular spaces and velocity of the cerebrospinal fluid while flowing into the brain.

—PTI

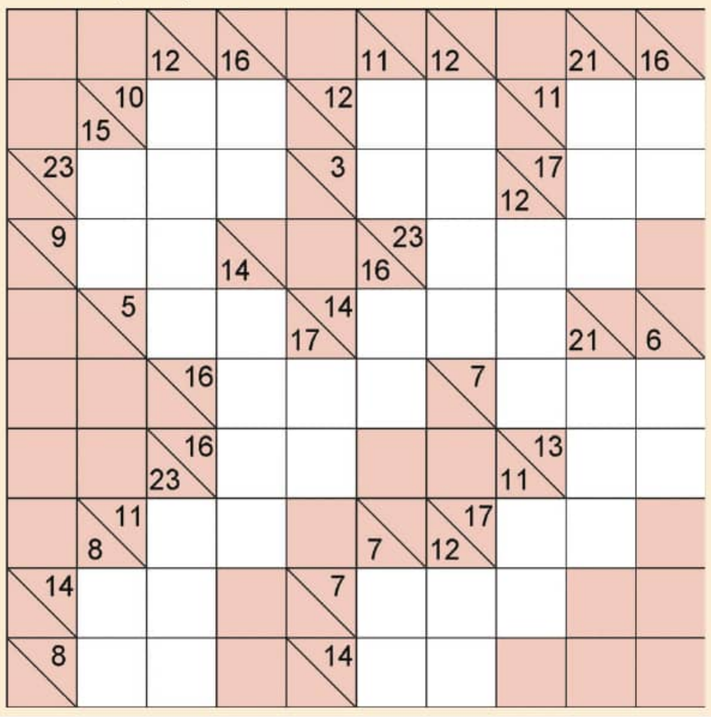
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

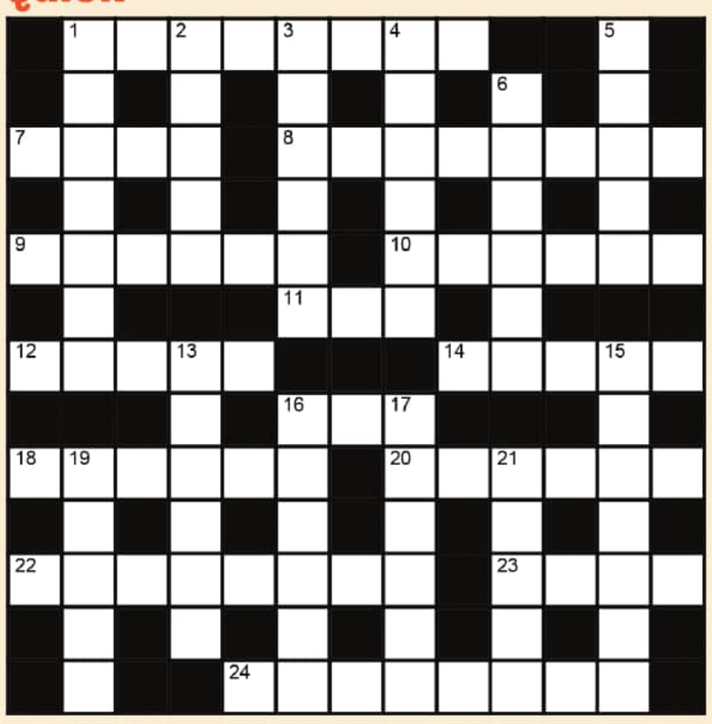
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Have good intentions about or for (4,4)
7 Therefore in Latin (4)
8 Intermission (8)
9 Marinara ingredient (6)
10 Magnificent (6)
11 Crazy person (3)
12 Ankle bones (5)
14 Base of felled tree (5)
16 Lummox (3)
18 Answer back (6)
20 Supplementary building (6)
22 Despite the fact that, notwithstanding (8)
23 Musical finale (4)
24 A sign of approval (6,2)

DOWN

1 One of Malleshwaram's main streets (7)
2 Fragrance (5)
3 Be attendant or respectful visitor to? (4,2)
4 Most recent (6)
5 Natural ability (5)
6 Hollow beneath shoulder (6)
13 Assuage (6)
15 Mentally confused (5-2)
16 Forward dash (6)
17 Water-depth measure (6)
19 Talk-show host ___ DeGeneres (5)
21 Notches (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: C EQUALS D

YVEGSHZGJ SLHANI CXA'S IVVR ESSVASHXA.

Linemaro

You must be one hell of a thief because you stole my heart from across the room

Mindchow

If you are going to walk on thin ice, you might as well dance

Joke of the day

A woman at a party walked up to a man and told him, "If you were my husband I would poison your drink."
The man replied, "If you were my wife I would drink it."

Loop

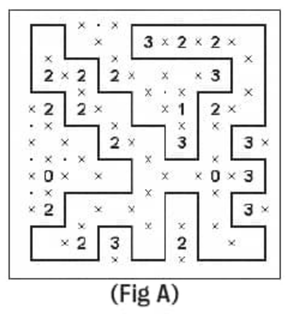
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

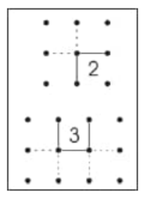
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

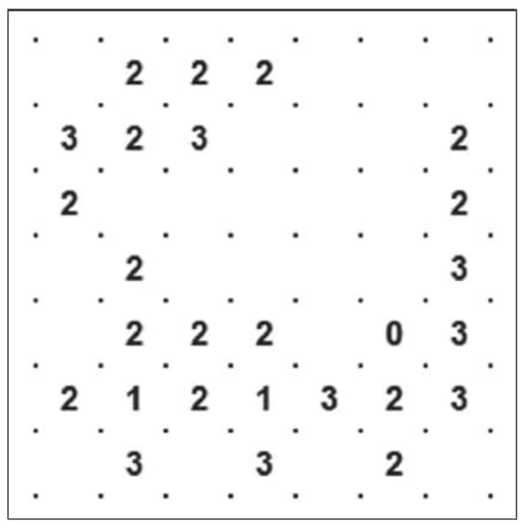
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



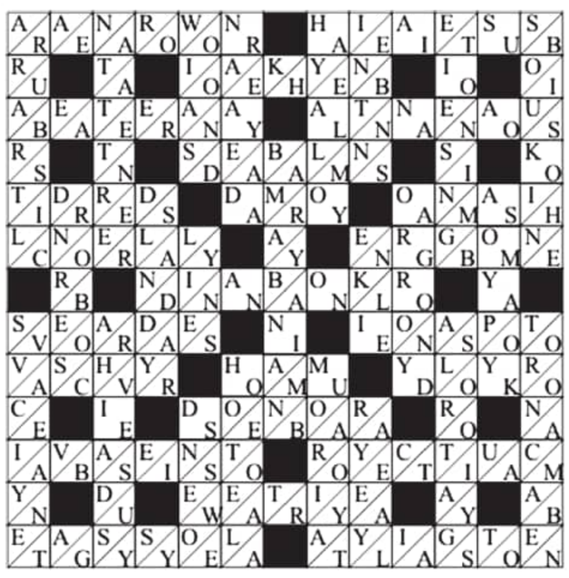
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



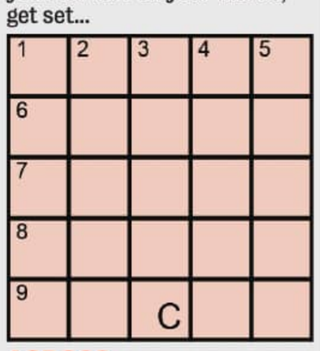
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

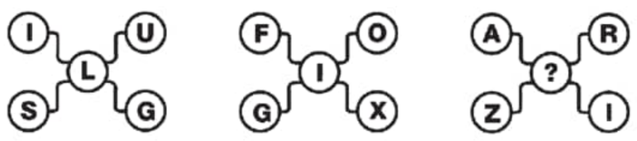
1 Hap as; 6 Aides; 7 Roils; 8 A weak; 9 UC nut

DOWN

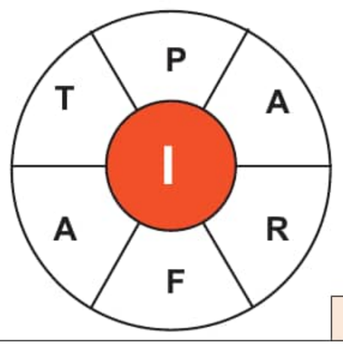
1 Pauli; 2 Awn do; 3 Cares; 4 Auk hi; 5 Tessa

Mensapuzzle

Which letter completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	6	8				3	7	
			2		7			
				3		2	5	
3	5			7	4		9	
				5				
	1		9	8			6	2
	8	1		6				
			7		1			
	7	5				6	3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 10

2 7 8 9

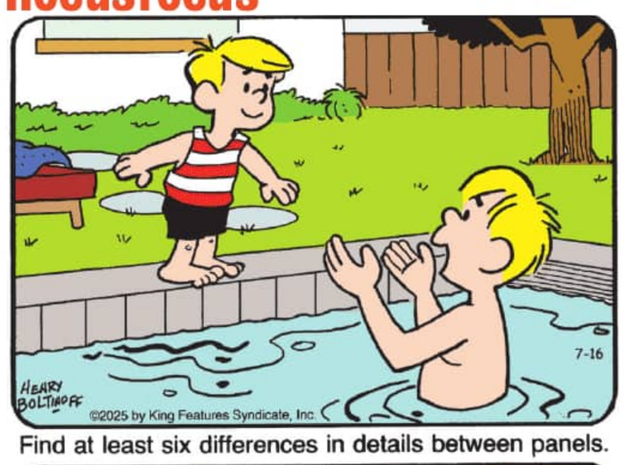
Medium = 23

4 5 5 8

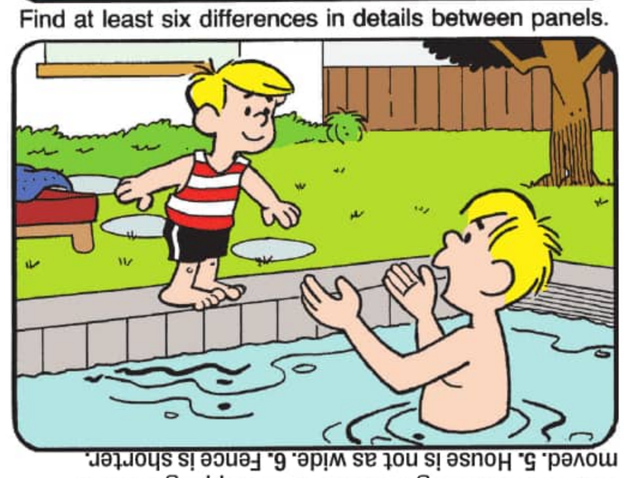
Hard = 6

1 3 4 5

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



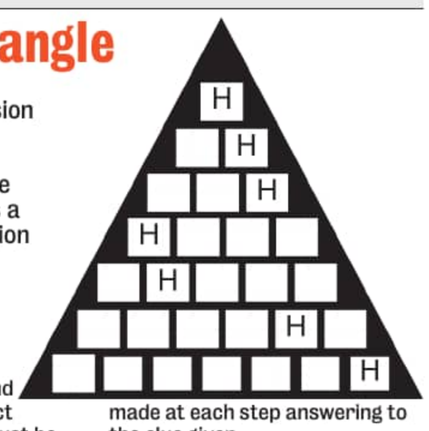
Differences: 1. Arm is moved. 2. Stripe is added to shorts. 3. Chair leg is different. 4. Stepping stone is moved. 5. House is not as wide. 6. Fence is shorter.

Riddler

If: 2 3 = 10 7 2 = 63 6 5 = 66 8 4 = 96 9 7 = __
What is the missing number?

Alpha triangle

1 8th letter
2 Hesitant expression
3 Cry of aversion
4 Embraces
5 Show indifference
6 _____out: Makes a preliminary version
7 Mischievous

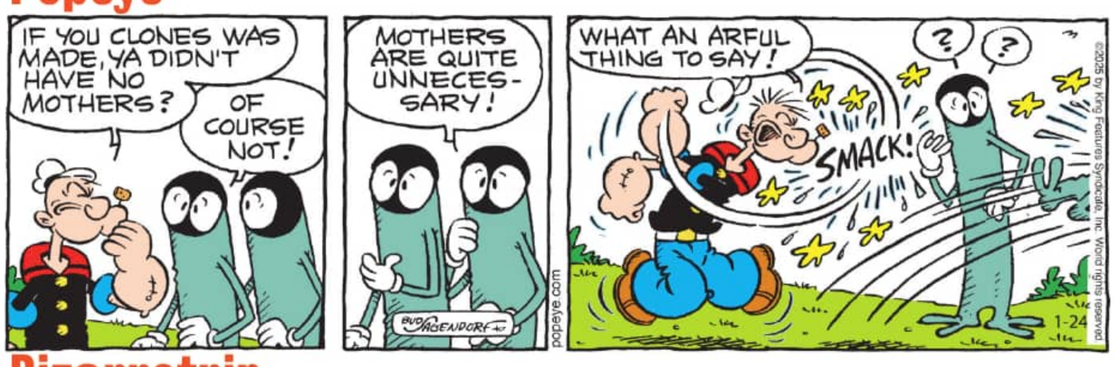


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

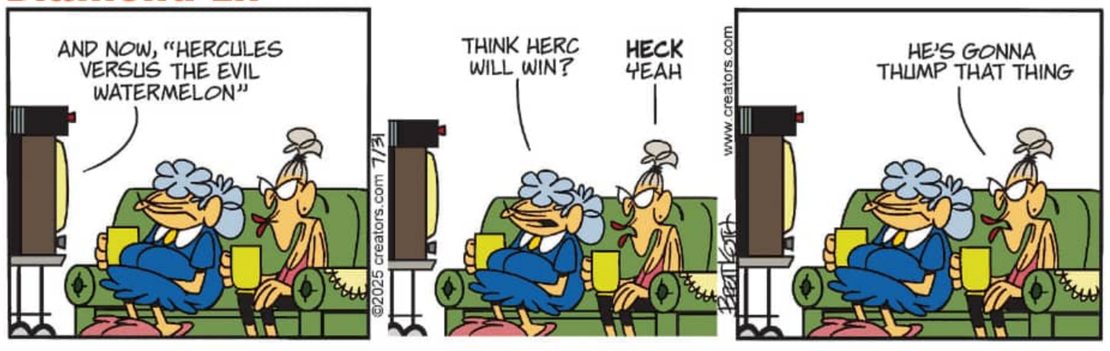
COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil



Hart of the city

WHAT'S EVERYONE DOING FOR THE SUMMER?
I'M GOING TO THE LAKE.
DISNEY. AGAIN.
I'M GOING BACK TO THEATER CAMP.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE WORK.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

MY SECOND TIME BACK IN NEW YORK... I STAYED AT A HOWARD JOHNSON'S BECAUSE IT WAS THE ONLY HOTEL NAME I KNEW.
'WHEN I WAS LITTLE, MY DAD WOULD TAKE OUR FAMILY TO A HOWARD JOHNSON'S FOR DINNER EVERY FRIDAY, AND I ALWAYS GOT THE FRIED CLAMS.'
'THAT NIGHT IN NEW YORK, I WENT DOWN TO THE HOTEL RESTAURANT, ORDERED SOME FRIED CLAMS, AND, FOR A FEW MINUTES IN A RAINY, CHILLY AND INTIMIDATING CITY, IT FELT LIKE HOME.'
HOWARD JOHNSON'S
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
© 2025 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
7-16

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

A year of determination and progress awaits. Career growth accelerates with your focus and discipline. Finances gradually stabilise. Relationships flourish when you balance strength with tenderness. Creative pursuits bring joy and recognition. Health improves through consistency. Opportunities for travel or study expand horizons.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Your optimistic mindset brightens everyone's day, ensuring smooth teamwork at work. Family health improves, easing worries. Focus shifts toward future planning and smart investments.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

The moon eases workload pressure, helping you meet deadlines effortlessly. Singles may feel romantic sparks with a friend, while couples resolve lingering issues.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Health thrives and work flows easily today. Domestic concerns settle with grace. Singles benefit from new connections, while property investments look favourable. A balanced, fulfilling day blends opportunity and harmony.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Patience guides you in resolving domestic challenges. Work runs smoothly, though motivating colleagues may be required. Family discussions around children's education dominate home life.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Encouraging job news arrives, boosting confidence. Domestic disagreements may test couples, yet patience restores harmony. Singles seek meaningful connections.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

The moon's influence heightens productivity, helping you clear pending tasks at work and home. Students notice improved concentration, achieving steady progress. It's best to avoid fresh investments.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Added work responsibilities may spark nervousness, but they reveal hidden skills worth exploring. Focus on self-growth and improvement today. Avoid unnecessary travel.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Control and clarity define your day. Work projects earn praise, boosting confidence. A long-lost friend reconnects, reviving joy. Previously delayed finances begin to flow, opening doors for progress and abundance.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Pause on major business or relocation decisions for now. Prioritise wellbeing, guarding against heat-related concerns. Avoid sun exposure and travel.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Financial stability allows some indulgence, while property investments bring promise. Reflect on long-term goals for clarity. Students facing concentration struggles find peace through meditation.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

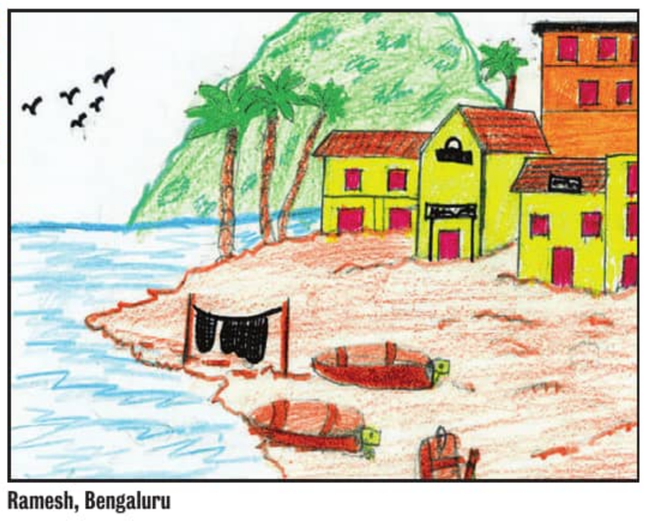
A family member's warmth lifts your spirits, easing challenges. Work stays busy as you confidently lead projects. Pay attention to health by maintaining a balanced diet and prioritising physical and emotional wellness.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Professional success shines, possibly bringing promotion opportunities. Home interiors deserve creative updates, adding fresh inspiration. Dedicate time to meditation.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Ramesh, Bengaluru

Akhilesh, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

$\sqrt{12} = 2\sqrt{3}$
$\sqrt{3} \cdot 2\sqrt{3} = 6$
$10 + 6 = 16$
$\sqrt{16} = 4$

BULL'S EYE

arla, artha, fair, flat, pair, PARFAIT, rift, tapir, tiara, trip

FAST FIVE

P	A	S	H	A
I	D	E	A	S
L	O	R	I	S
A	W	A	K	E
U	N	C	U	T

RIDDLER

f(n, m) = (n + m) × n; e.g. f(2, 3) = (2 + 3) × 2 = 10; Hence, f(9, 7) = (9 + 7) × 9 = 144

STRIKE OUT

R	E	N	O	W	N	H	I	A	T	U	S
U	A	O	A	K	E	N	O	W	I		
B	E	T	R	A	Y	A	N	A	N	A	S
R	T	D	E	A	L	S	I	K			
I	R	E	D	D	R	Y	A	N	S	I	
C	O	R	A	L	A	E	G	G	O	N	
B	D	I	A	B	O	L	O	A			
V	E	R	D	E	I	N	A	P	T		
A	S	H	Y	H	A	M	Y	O	Y	O	
C	E	S	O	N	A	R	R	A			
A	B	S	E	N	T	R	E	C	T	U	M
N	U	E	E	R	I	E	A	A			
T	A	S	S	E	L	A	L	I	S	O	N

QUICK

M	E	A	N	W	H	I	L	E			
A		R		A		A		L			
E	R	G	O		I	N	T	E	R	V	A	L
G		M		T		E		M		I	
T	O	M	A	T	O		S	U	P	E	R	B
A	L	T	H	O	U	G	H		C	O	D	A
L		T		R		T		I		E	
R	E	J	O	I	N		A	N	N	E	X	E
		O		O	A	F			I			
T	A	R	S	I			S	T	U	M	P
S			N	U	T			I			
N		T	H	U	M	B	S	U	P		

MENSA PUZZLE

Q. In each diagram, start with the letter in the top left and move clockwise around the others. Letters advance through the alphabet in steps given by the numerical value of the central letter.

QUOTE UNCODE

Beautiful things don't seek attention.

SUDOKU

2	6	8	5	1	9	3	7	4
5	3	9	2	4	7	8	1	6
1	4	7	8	3	6	2	5	9
3	5	2	6	7	4	1	9	8
8	9	6	1	5	2	7	4	3
7	1	4	9	8	3	5	6	2
4	8	1	3	6	5	9	2	7
6	2	3	7	9	1	4	8	5
9	7	5	4	2	8	6	3	1

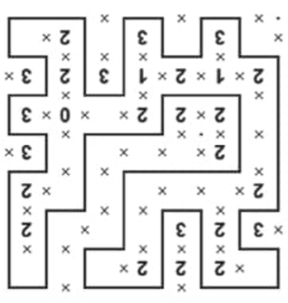
ALPHA TRIANGLE

H, Uh, Ugh, Hugs, Shrug, Roughs, Roguish.

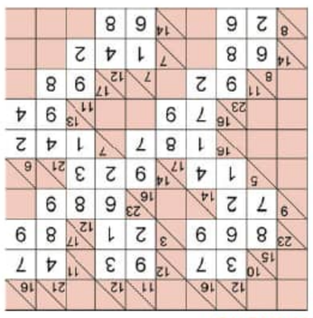
GO FIGURE

Easy
7 + 9 − 8 + 2 = 10
Medium
4 × 5 − 5 + 8 = 23
Hard
4 + 5 / 1 − 3 = 6

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 18, Issue No 043 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Festival circuit — Writer, director Semmalar Annam's much-awaited Tamil film 'Mayilaa', which is being presented by acclaimed filmmaker Pa Ranjith, will premiere at the 55th International Film Festival of Rotterdam

Blend right in

Actress Sonakshi Sinha is all set to showcase a completely new side of her in the upcoming Tamil film "Jatadhara."

The actress revealed that she had been waiting for a long time to take on a character so different from her previous roles. In an exclusive quote shared with IANS, she called it an exciting opportunity to challenge herself. Sonakshi also thanked the makers for envisioning her in such a unique role and bringing it to life. Sharing her experience of working on the film and what drew her to the role, Sinha said, "I've been waiting for a long time to do a character like this. It's completely different from anything I've done before, and that's what made it so exciting for me. I want to thank the makers for envisioning me in such a role and bringing it to life."

"Ever since my debut, people have told me I have an Indian face — some even called me Bihar ki beti. But my father always said, you're Hindustan ki beti. He used to say, 'If you play a character from any state you'll blend right in'. So here I am, exploring a side of myself I've never shown before, and I'm really looking forward to seeing how audiences respond," the 'Akira' actress added.

Sonakshi Sinha is all set to make her Tollywood debut with "Jatadhara," where she plays the intense and commanding role of Dhanapisachini. **—IANS**

Star in the audience

Rashmika Mandanna recently opened up to her fans on social media about a special moment. To personally witness how viewers were responding to her film 'Thamma', she quietly visited a cinema on Wednesday night, surprising many and charming her followers with this candid gesture.

On her Instagram stories, Rashmika shared a video from her movie 'Thamma' and expressed her feelings, saying, "Dear Diary, Sooo Wednesday night I might have just sneaked back into the theatre to watch Thamma. It's a different feeling altogether

listening to the laughs, whistles, and reactions all around while watching the film. To everyone who's watched it sent love, feedback, comments… we're sooo so happy!!I love youuu all!! Oh and yes.. I got my 80:20 salted caramel popcorn too."

'Thamma' showed a solid performance on its third day, raking in an additional Rs 12.50 crore. Industry analyst Sacnilk reported that the film collected Rs 24 crore net on its first day in India, followed by a strong Rs 18.6 crore on day two. Continuing this momentum, the movie's total earnings reached Rs 55.10 crore within three days. **— ETimes**

TROLL ALERT

Accounts targeting Deepika get active on day of film audio teaser release

After the makers of Spirit unveiled an explosive audio teaser in five languages, troll accounts targeting actress Deepika Padukone jumped on the bandwagon, attempting to capitalize on the hype by posting misleading comments online.

A fake social media profile pretending to be Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone shared a reaction to Prabhas' first look from "Spirit". The post claimed that Deepika was "sad" but found the teaser "wonderful."

The viral post came from a fake account impersonating her, misleading fans online after Vanga unveiled the first audio teaser of Spirit, which was released in five Indian languages such as Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam.

"I am sad but wonderful video Sandeep Reddy and happy birthday #Prabhas sir," the tweet read.

For those who do not know, Deepika was replaced by Triptii Dimri in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's next.

Although the exact reason for her exit is not known, if the reports are to be believed, the director was discouraged by the long list of demands from Deepika, which reportedly included limited working hours, a significant paycheck, and a share in the film's profits.

Filmmaker Sandeep Reddy Vanga wished Prabhas on his birthday by dropping the first 'sound story' from "Spirit". He took to his X (Earlier known as Twitter) handle and dropped the audio teaser of the film in five Indian languages - Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam. **—IANS**

BELLI CHUKKI HALLI HAKKI

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Mahesh Gowda
- **ACTORS** Mahesh Gowda, Kaajal Kunder, Jahangeer MS, Veena Sunder, Ravi Bhat, Lakshmi Siddaiah, and Girija Lokesh
- **Duration** 135 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

More than skin-deep

Mahesh Gowda's choice of subject aimed at dispelling superstitions and myths on vitiligo is applaudable. Gowda, who has vitiligo, plays the lead in his directorial. Gowda has tried to convey a message on the importance of treating people with vitiligo on par with others. He removes his shirt on a few occasions, not to showcase physique, but to make it clear that there is no need to hide vitiligo. However, the pre-intermission session is a bit dreary. It seems the director was not able to come to the crux of the matter as he had taken up too many responsibilities - that of director, producer, and hero.

The movie begins with Ranga (Jahangeer MS) helping his nephew Shiva to learn to ride a bicycle. Shiva falls and gets injured. Shiva's mother Shanta (Lakshmi Siddaiah) notices white patches on Shiva's body. Later, it becomes tough for Shiva to go to school as his classmates embarrass him. Shiva (Mahesh Gowda) stops looking for a marriage alliance for himself because of vitiligo. However, Kavita (Kaajal Kunder) agrees to marry him though her mother Sushila (Veena Sunder) opposes the proposal. Kavita's decision makes Shiva wonder because she is beautiful and can get a handsome boy as her life partner. What happens to Kavita and Shiva is what Belli Chukki Halli Hakki is all about.

As far as the performances of the actors are concerned, Gowda has tried his best to break barriers on vitiligo. Kaajal Kunder, as a victim of molestation who suffers in silence, has acted well. A few scenes, especially the scene of a bangle store and hospital where a woman embarrasses the heroine for marrying a person with vitiligo condition, test audiences' patience. Veena Sunder, as a concerned mother who is ready to go to any extent for the well-being of her daughter, is convincing. Jahangeer MS has provided good support.

There is nothing to crow about the background score.

It is worth a watch for those who want to understand the effects of discrimination.

—Y Maheswara Reddy